■ METRO / A21

10 dormitories, boarding houses in Manila face closure for being 'fire traps'

■ NEWS / A2

GMA formally accepts Sto. Tomas resignation

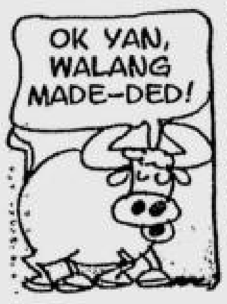
■ WORLD / A24

Indon quake death toll rises past 5,400; aid workers arrive from around the world

■ SPORTS / A27

Nadal sets clay court record

Too lazy to exercise? Try cordless jump-rope


OK YAN, WALANG MADE-DED!

By Seth Borenstein
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON—IF YOU think keeping fit is merely mind over matter, Lester Clancy has an invention for you—a cordless jump-rope.

TOO LAZY/A10

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, May 31, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 172 P18 website: www.inq7.net

GMA orders rehabilitation of endangered buildings

By Christine O. Avendaño and Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL (NDCC) has been ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to supervise the repair and rehabilitation of 60 buildings, mostly schools, in Metro Manila which are in danger of sustaining life-threatening damage should a major earthquake strike.

GMA ORDERS/ A15

Stop killers, GMA urged

AFP chief a no-show at Senate probe, cites EO 464

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THREE MILITARY AND TWO police officials, including Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, snubbed a Senate inquiry into the May 22 arrest and alleged torture of five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada by invoking Executive Order No. 464.

The joint investigation by the Senate committees on national defense and security and on justice and human rights was only one of the inquiries snubbed by military and executive branch officials since the Supreme Court declared portions of EO 464, which bars government officials from attending congressional hearings without President Macapagal-Arroyo's consent, unconstitutional.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who has taken up the cudgels for his father's supporters and whose privilege speech had prompted yesterday's inquiry, said the invited officials should not be allowed to hide behind EO 464.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said there was no justification for Malacañang's refusal to allow the military officers to be present.

"What is the national security

AFP CHIEF/ A6

STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT. Victims line the roads in the quake-stricken Indonesian city of Yogyakarta hoping to receive money from motorists and other strangers. Three days after the 6.3-magnitude temblor hit, many of the homeless still live out in the open even during a torrential downpour. The death toll has soared past 5,000. *(Story in The World, Page A24.)*

AFP

Military intel agent held in Sotero Llamas killing

By Job B. Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—SOTERO LLAMAS had cried before a man who visited him nine days before he was killed last Monday.

Police officers looking into the ambush-killing of Llamas have taken into custody this visitor who is connected to military intelligence.

Supt. Renato Bataller, city police chief, identified the man as Boya Martirez, 56, of Barangay Divino Rostro here, from a police artist's sketch.

Llamas, 55, a former leader of the New People's Army (NPA) in Bicol, was riding in a van when he was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle here on Monday. He was the 224th leftist leader to

MILITARY/ A6

Amnesty Int'l suspects vigilantes behind slays

By Norman Bordadora, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to disband any groups found responsible for the murder of hundreds of left-wing activists and journalists in the country.

The London-based human rights watchdog yesterday said Ms Arroyo must make "a public statement to make it crystal clear to all—including the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police and other security forces—that involvement in such killings will not be tolerated and that she will do everything in her power to combat impunity."

Malacañang earlier branded as unfair the entry on the Philippines in AI's world report for 2006, which pointed to a pattern of impunity in the unsolved killings in the country.

AIP, nevertheless, lauded Ms Arroyo's call for an end to the killings but said the administration had yet to deliver the message that those crimes committed by state agents should not go unpunished.

AI said it had received reports of paramilitary groups, operating outside the AFP but with ties to some military officers, carrying out extrajudicial killings.

"Forces operating outside the chain of command but with the acquiescence of any official should be immediately prohibited," AI Philip-

STOP KILLERS/ A6

Heritage disaster: Native craftsmen create icons not their own

By Constantino C. Tejero

COMMENTARY

LIKE THE DEMOLITION OF OUR HERitage structures, the degradation of our environment and the ransacking of our natural resources, our native culture is being transformed—slowly and imperceptibly—for the worse.

From north to south, from east to west of the archipelago, an irreversible damage is being wreaked upon ethnic arts and crafts. Contact between locals and outsiders naturally makes alien, if not inimical, elements seep into the native culture till it develops a monstrous hybrid. A notorious example is that Man in the Barrel figurine that rears its head in all souvenir shops in the Cordillera.

One time in a woodcraft shop at Viewpoint in Banaue, we were surprised to find among the *bululs* a pinewood figurine of what looked like an Indonesian demon. The craftsman's wife said a trader had placed the order for the carved items, which he would sell in Bali where they were popular with tourists.

Like many of our export products, such handicraft are marketed as being made in the respective countries where they're sold. But they're actually made here, where labor is cheap, and the buyer is guaranteed fine craftsmanship and first-class hardwood.

HERITAGE/ A16

LYN RILLON

OUTBURST: Ms Arroyo disagrees with the classroom shortage figures cited by acting DepEd Secretary Fe Hidalgo (left), and shows it. Later, Hidalgo says she made an error.

Gloria loses temper with DepEd head

By Christine O. Avendano

WITH THE CABINET AND MEDIA PRESent, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday flashed her temper at acting Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo who made a presentation on the classroom shortage in the public schools.

Hidalgo was supposed to report to the President and the Cabinet on preparations being taken by the Department of Education (DepEd) for the resumption of classes next week.

Hidalgo said the classroom shortage had reached 6,832, prompting Ms Arroyo to question the figure, noting that the government had already implemented measures to meet the classroom shortage.

Ms Arroyo reminded Hidalgo that last year, they agreed that the pupil-classroom ratio be pegged at 100 to 1 and to implement a two-shift policy.

The two-shift policy involves splitting up a large class, say 100 students, into two, so 50 could attend either morning or afternoon classes.

"Maybe we should identify specifically where the shortage is supposed to be and let us check if it's 100 is to 1... because either our original data is raw or this one is raw [but] it cannot be both because the

GLORIA/ A15

VIP welcome for 1st Pinoys on Mt. Everest

By Nikko Dizon

NOT EVEN THE CLAIM OF ANOTHER MOUNtaineer that he was the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest dampened the arrival yesterday of Leo Oracion and Erwin Emata.

The two men, members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE), are the acknowledged first and second Filipinos, respectively, to set foot on the peak of the world's tallest mountain on May 17 and 18.

Both wearing colorful native hats from Nepal, Oracion and Emata happily waved at their well-wishers after arriving on Philippine Airlines flight 731 shortly after 6 p.m.

They were accompanied by FPMEE head Art Valdez, Dr. Ted Esguerra and other members of the expedition who served as their support team at Everest Base Camp.

Together with Valdez, Oracion and Emata dismissed the claim of Dale Abenojar that he was the first Filipino on Everest.

"I'm not worried about the photo that I saw in the [Philippine Star]," Oracion said at a press conference held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Centennial Terminal 2.

"[The background] was so different from what I saw. It must have been a different summit," he said.

Emata expressed doubt that Abenojar had

VIP WELCOME/ A10

JESS YUSON

SUMMITEERS Leo Oracion and Erwin Emata are back to a winners' welcome prepared by ABS-CBN, main sponsor behind their triumph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, the eastern section of Central Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/05/30/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gloria accepts Pat's resignation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerome Aning and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ACcepted Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas's resignation but only after a successor shall have been chosen and her move to a new government post finalized.

Even before official word of the President's acceptance of Sto. Tomas's resignation had gotten out, militant labor groups were already celebrating her imminent departure and, in contrast to the glowing praise from the Palace, they were scathing in their remarks.

"President Arroyo has discussed this matter with Secretary Sto. Tomas, who holds a long sterling record of service just wants to ease up from her very stressful workload," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement. "In fairness to everyone, especially to the secretary herself, let us not start to paint politics behind this resignation. It is a completely normal phenomenon."

Bunye said Sto. Tomas had asked to be relieved of her post as early as December 2004 due to stress and fatigue. She has stayed in the same post longer than any other member of Ms Arroyo's Cabinet, having served as labor secretary for five years and five months.

Bunye said the President had asked Sto. Tomas to stay on until she had decided on a successor.

"The President told her that her services were needed, particularly at this time when the country is reeling from the ill effects of rising world oil prices," said Bunye.

He lauded Sto. Tomas for having the lowest incidence of labor strikes in the country's history during her term.

"The President and the entire Cabinet are deeply grateful for Secretary Sto. Tomas's remarkable professionalism and sense of national duty. It would be difficult to fill her shoes in the labor post, but our workers can rest assured that there will be a continuity of the professionalism, social conscience and team spirit that Secretary Sto. Tomas built in the labor department," Bunye said.

Militant labor groups disagreed.

"She never listens to workers, what she only hears are the arguments of the capitalists," Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) spokesperson Prestoline Suyat said. "Even if she resigns, we will not forget and will not forgive her that easily."

The federation said it held Sto. Tomas accountable for "various crimes against the Filipino workers," including the unsolved killings of labor leaders.

Joshua Mata, secretary general of the Alliance of Progressive Labor, faulted her for policies that violated workers' rights, such as the DOLE's assumption of jurisdiction over strikes to break them up and the insufficient increases in the minimum wage.

"Pat Sto. Tomas will not be missed... How can one miss a labor secretary who herself has been accused of committing unfair labor practices, violating the constitutional rights of government employees to self-organization by directly intervening in the affairs of DOLE employees, union-busting, and grave abuse of authority?" said Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, a former KMU leader.

Beltran said Sto. Tomas's resignation was a "gift to the hundreds of thousands of workers she helped employers and capitalists abuse, exploit and kick out of employment."

Beltran had frequently clashed with Sto. Tomas over wage increases, strikes and other labor issues.

"If she think she's stressed out, we can only imagine the state of health, mind and welfare of the workers whose rights she had violated by signing all those various memoranda, department orders and case decisions," he said in a statement.

Beltran, author of a House bill seeking a P125-across-the-board hike in private workers' salaries, said that under her watch, the labor department had become "even more antiworker and antipoor."

Miriam says she might 'do a Pat'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

CITING STRESS AND THE DEmands of motherhood, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday said she might "do a Pat" and resign or at least take a break from the Senate.

A statement from Santiago's office said she could be "doing a Pat," referring to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas whose resignation from the Cabinet has been accepted by President Macapagal-Arroyo. *(See top story on this page)*

The statement said Santiago, who had just returned from a month-long sick leave due to hypertension, was forced to rush home from the Senate on Monday evening after she suffered a "relapse." She was absent from the Senate yesterday.

While on sick leave, however, Santiago joined President Arroyo in her four-day state visit to Saudi Arabia last month.

Santiago said that like her friend, Sto. Tomas, she "would like to take a break and write," even if she had already authored 30 college textbooks.

"Santiago said she is considering resigning from the Senate where her term [will end in] 2010. But she said she will at least wait for the Charter change issue to be resolved and, in the event, for a new Charter to be put in place," the statement said.

The administration senator had predicted the Senate could be abolished by July if the Supreme Court allows the convening of a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution where the Senate and the House would vote jointly.

Santiago likened her situation to Sto. Tomas', saying they were both working mothers. She has four young adopted children while Sto. Tomas lives with her three grandchildren.

"A working mother needs a wife of her own," Santiago said.

She said they both recently suffered family losses: She the death of her youngest son and Sto. Tomas her husband.

Santiago revealed that she tried to dissuade Sto. Tomas from resigning, saying she was a "jewel in the Cabinet and the country's finest technocrat today."

She said she was convinced Sto. Tomas needed a stress-free workplace after learning that she, too, had to send her siblings through college.

"Working mothers just get tuckered out. Government should consider a one-year sabbatical for working mothers who have served at least a decade in public service," she said.

Santiago said that although the Senate calendar provided for regular breaks, it only meant that there were no sessions but the senators had to do their paperwork and make "relentless public appearances."

Paras bolts minority, but won't join majority

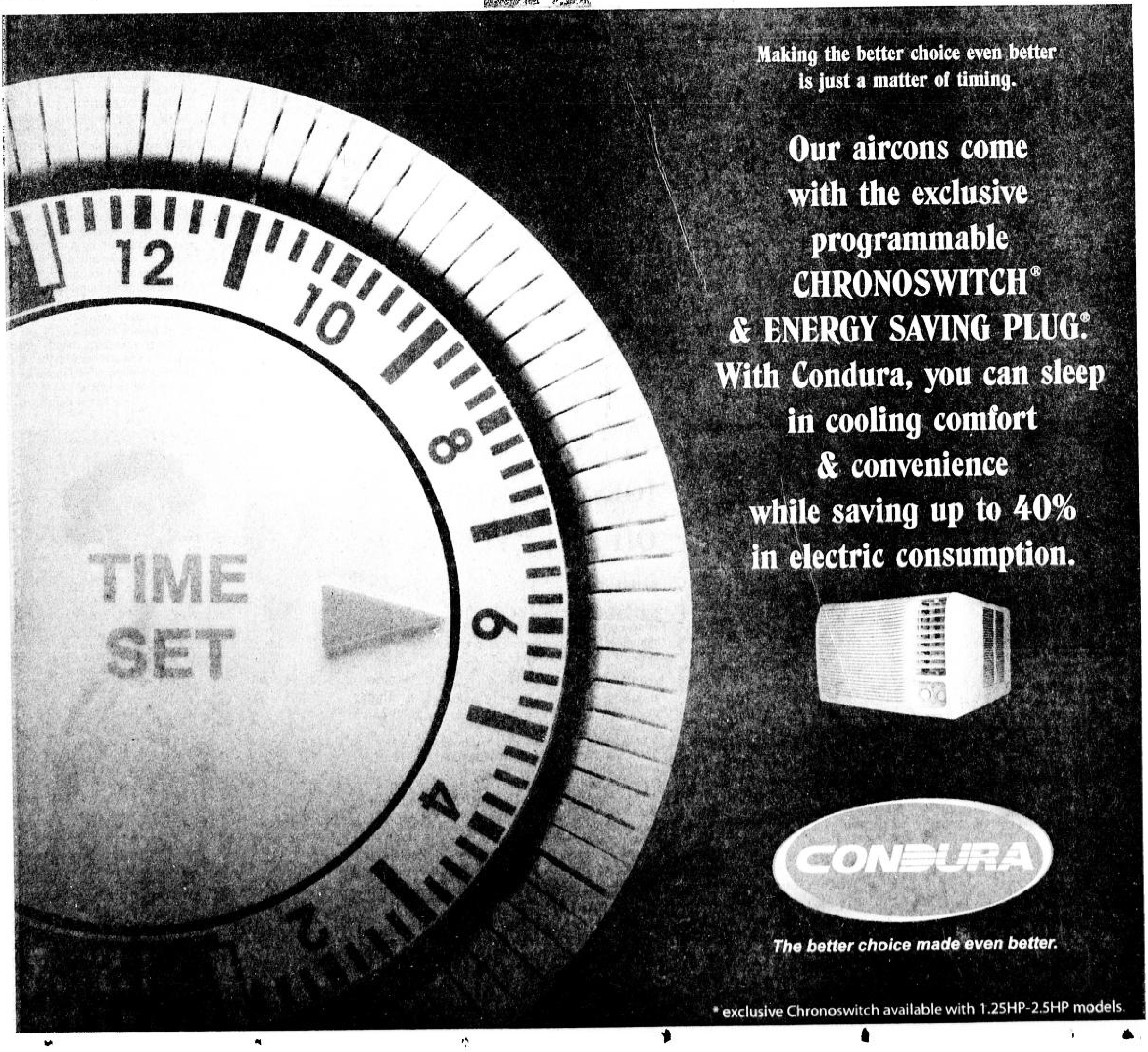
SAYING HE WANTED TO BE A "voice in the wilderness," Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental yesterday announced he was bolting the minority coalition in the House of Representatives.

Paras cited his pro-Charter change stand and his "differences" with House Minority Leader Francis Escudero as reasons for his departure, a move which could have the ramifications on the soon-to-be-filed impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I'm not joining the majority," said Paras at a hastily called press conference. "I will be an independent member of the (opposition)."

Paras, a stalwart of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino headed by Sen. Edgardo Angara, said he had to leave the minority since it had taken a formal stand against constitutional reforms.

He said he fully supports the planned shift to a parliamentary system being spearheaded by Speaker Jose de Venecia, even calling on opposition lawmakers "to also consider supporting the Charter change initiative without necessarily giving up the option of impeachment." *Michael Lim Ubac*



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Japanese firms to get taxes back

THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED ON Tuesday to reimburse private contractors from Japan who were erroneously taxed for Japanese-funded projects—a problem that forced Tokyo to suspend support for several other projects in the Philippines, officials said.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the government had repaid about 85 percent of the P458 million in value-added taxes (VAT) erroneously charged the Japanese contractors, and that the rest would be paid by July when Tokyo and Manila celebrate the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

The taxes should have been shouldered by the Philippine government but were paid by the Japanese contractors, who then demanded reimbursement from Manila and Tokyo, said Katsumi Yoshida, deputy Manila representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency which oversees Tokyo-funded projects.

The value-added taxes were levied between five and 10 key infrastructure and health improvement projects undertaken since 2004, Yoshida said.

The issue "became a serious concern between the Philippine and Japanese governments, resulting in the suspension of the processing of projects," Andaya said in a statement.

Andaya said the Philippine government would be able to pay the Japanese contractors back as soon as Congress approved the 2006 budget.

The House of Representatives had failed to quickly pass the national budget, partly because of its preoccupation with impeaching bids against President Macapagal-Arroyo last year.

Japan is among the Philippines' largest providers of development grants and loans. *AP*

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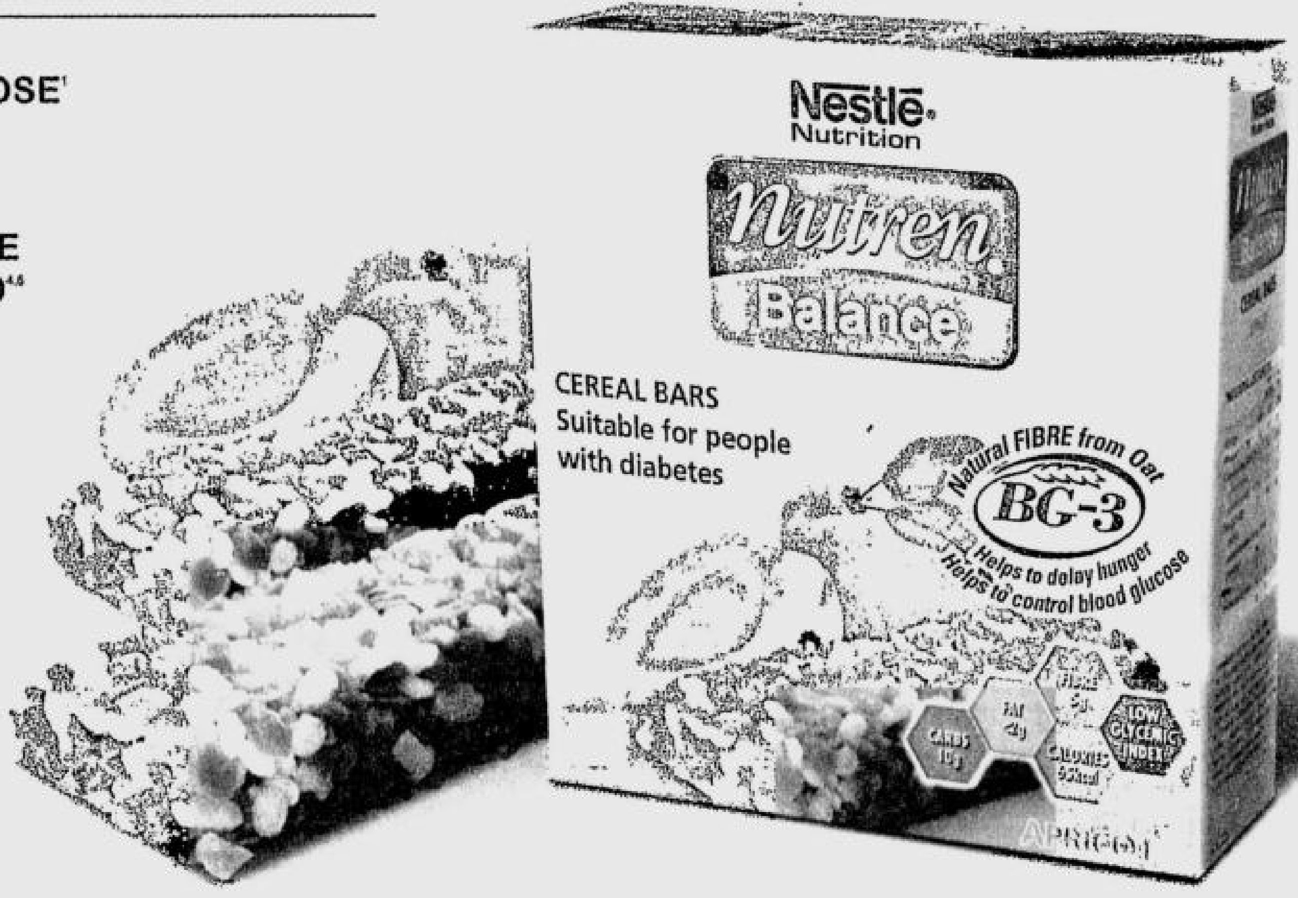

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1. Jenkins AL, *et al.* Depression of the glycemic index by high levels of B-glucan fiber in two functional foods tested in type 2 diabetes *Europ J Clin Nut* 2002; 56: 622-28 2. Evidence-based nutritional approaches to the treatment and prevention of diabetes mellitus. Diabetes and Nutrition Study Group (DNSG) of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), *Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis* 2003; 14: 373-394. 3. Position Statement. American Diabetes Association, *Diabetes Care* 2002; (1): 25 202-12. NEST0035. 4. Lavin JH, Read NW: The effect on hunger and satiety of slowing the absorption of glucose : relationship with gastric emptying and postprandial blood glucose and insulin responses. *Appetite* 25, 89-96, 1995. 5. Howarth NC, *et al.* Dietary fibre and weight regulation. *Nutr Rev* 2001; 59(5): 129-139.

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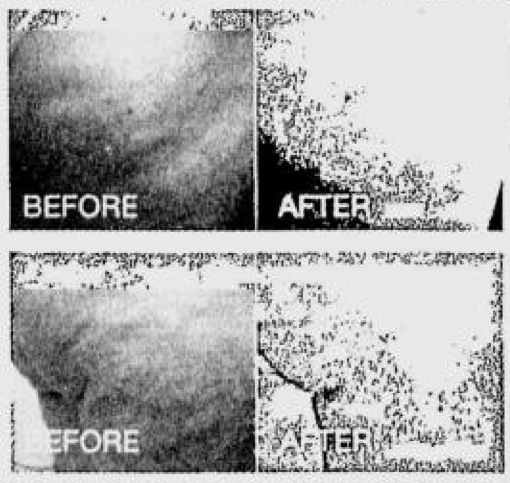
women talk:

Cellulite

Not all dimples are worth smiling about.



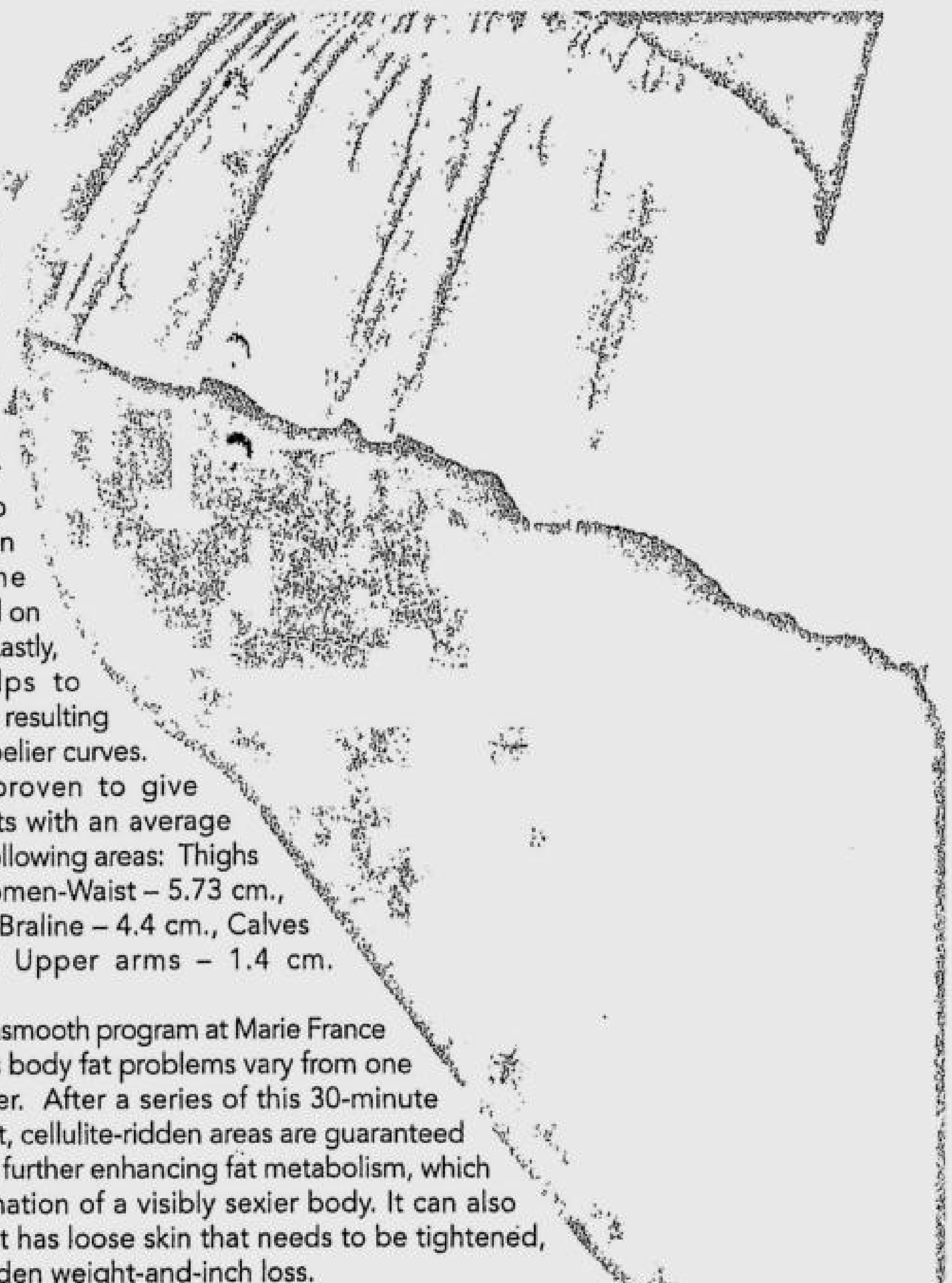
Nothing is more irritating than having misplaced dimples on your buttocks. So ugly to look at, this orange-peel-like flaw on your skin makes you feel awkward whenever you're wearing shorts, mini-skirts and swimsuits. We call these lumps and bumps *cellulite* and, yes, it is hereditary. To date, nearly 90 percent of women are trapped with this dilemma – young or old, slim or fat. Unfortunately, no amount of diet, exercise and even liposuction could free you from those pesky fats. Over-the-counter drugs, creams and gels have all been used and have shown little or no effect at all.

But just when we thought we have exhausted all possible solutions, Marie France offers the most raved about cellulite buster in the US today – **Velasmooth.** Velasmooth is a non-invasive slimming treatment that uses Electro-Optical Synergy (ELOS) technology, which combines infrared light and radio frequency together with skin contouring action to improve your body shape and get rid of unsightly stubborn fat such as cellulite.

Velasmooth works by increasing circulation through infrared light in the treated areas so that the energy stored in fat would be available for burning. Radio frequency then ensures that the infrared is focused on the fat problem. Lastly, the suction helps to contour the body, resulting to smoother, shapelier curves. Velasmooth is proven to give remarkable results with an average reduction in the following areas: Thighs – 4.18 cm., Abdomen-Waist – 5.73 cm., Hips – 5.86 cm., Braline – 4.4 cm., Calves – 2.2 cm., and Upper arms – 1.4 cm.

Every Velasmooth program at Marie France is personalized as body fat problems vary from one woman to another. After a series of this 30-minute relaxing treatment, cellulite-ridden areas are guaranteed to smoothen out, further enhancing fat metabolism, which leads to the formation of a visibly sexier body. It can also be used if a client has loose skin that needs to be tightened, as a result of sudden weight-and-inch loss.

Finally breaking new grounds in the battle against cellulite, Velasmooth succeeds where all other products have failed. Don't miss your chance and let another sexy mini skirt pass you by. Call 894-BODY (2639) and get a Velasmooth program NOW.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

PROCUREMENT OF TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

The Land Transportation Office, through Fund 151 (MVUC) intends to apply the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Pesos (P2,934,316.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the procurement of two-way radio communication equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder of his authorized representative

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 9, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before June 21, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 ½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on June 21, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at LTO-Library, East Avenue Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan – Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 – telefax

Engr. Roberto S. Se – Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee
Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9292015 – telefax

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC - Chairman

(PDI–May 31, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

REPAIR OF VARIOUS DAEWOO VEHICLES

The Land Transportation Office, through Fund 101 intends to apply the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six Pesos (P1,900,136.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the repair of various Daewoo vehicles. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

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(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC - Chairmen

(PDI–May 31, 2006)

Corrections

IN THE MAY 22 ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"US ship docks in RP on mission of mercy"—misstated the rank of a Filipino-American officer aboard the US military hospital ship that arrived in Mindanao. Fil-Am Henry Villareal is a commander—not commodore—of the USNS Mercy.

* * *

IN THE MAY 25 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"AFP admits: We seized Erap men"—misspelled the name of the national security adviser. The name is Norberto Gonzales—not Gonzalez.

* * *

IN THE MAY 26 ISSUE, the banner story—"Erap 5 free on DOJ order"—and a caption on the front page misspelled the name of one of deposed President Joseph Estrada's supporters who had been detained by law enforcers. The correct spelling of the name of Estrada's supporter is Dennis Ebona—not Ibuna or Ibona. The same caption also misspelled the name of another member of the so-called "Erap 5." The correct spelling of the supporter's name is Jim Cabauatan—not Cabuautan.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, the caption of a front-page photo misstated the name of the lawyer who accompanied the leftist leaders facing rebellion charges in a Makati court. The counsel's name is Romeo—not Romulo—Capulong.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

House proposes wage hike of P80-P100/day

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES reached a consensus yesterday to raise the wages of private employees and workers by as much P100 a day.

Rep. Roseller Barinaga of Zamboanga del Norte, chair of the House committee on labor and employment, told reporters that a daily P80-across-the-board increase would be endorsed to the chamber.

Realistic

"That's realistic because employers can afford it," said Barinaga, who expects the plenary to pass the wage proposal before Congress adjourns on June 10.

He also pointed to several non-wage benefits proposed by Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the committee on ways and means.

Both Lapus and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the majority could support as much as P100.

Barinaga said Congress may not be able to give the full amount of P125 as proposed by Rep. Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis, principal author of House Bill No. 0345.

"But to compensate for the (discrepancy), workers will be given bigger tax benefits. This will serve as government's contribution to the wage hike issue, if enacted," said Barinaga.

Barinaga brushed aside the warning on Monday by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) that a legislated wage increase would be "anti-development" and send businesses reeling from a "double whammy."

"Mass layoffs and business closures are always being used as scare tactics every time the wage hike issue comes up but we never saw these grim scenarios eventually happening in the past," he said.

Lapus said the passage on third reading Monday night of the bill restructuring the individual income tax, which would exempt minimum wage earners from paying income tax, could translate to P30 per day of savings.

"That will cost government some P3 billion in lost revenue per year," said Lapus. "But the House is duty-bound to promote the interest of workers who are instrumental in the country's development. Workers serve as the engine of businesses," he added.

Tax exempt

Under the bill, Lapus said minimum wage earners would be exempted from paying income tax. For those earning more, the initial P55,000 of their salaries would be tax exempt. Personal exemptions would also be increased by 50 percent.

A legislated wage increase is being pushed in the House due to the unabated increases in the price of commodities which have eroded the peso's value and consequently diminished the value of workers' wages.

As of March 2006, the purchasing power of Filipino consumers had slid to only 73 centavos per peso, reducing the P325 highest minimum wage to a meager P233.48 in real cost, House economic data showed.

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Meet to tackle future of Rapu-Rapu mining

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ANGELO REYES is to meet today with local government officials, officers of an Australian mining company and members of a committee headed by a Roman Catholic bishop that had recommended shutting down the company's operations on Albay's Rapu-Rapu island permanently.

"The discussions and outputs of the forum will provide the department with a better appreciation of the issues to guide the DENR in making a ruling," Reyes said of the meeting, to be held this afternoon at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Reyes has just returned from a visit to Rapu-Rapu to "validate" the recommendations of the Rapu-Rapu Fact-Finding Commission and get feedback from the communities affected by toxic spills from Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s facilities in October last year.

The commission, headed by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, said in its report nearly two weeks ago that the spills had contaminated coastal areas with mercury and other toxic chemicals, diminishing local fishermen's catch and causing skin diseases among some of the residents. It recommended the closure of Lafayette, a permanent ban on mining on the island and a review of the country's mining laws.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and other groups criticized the report as being biased and based on hearsay rather than on scientifically established facts. It said also that the effects of the spills had been "overly dramatized."

Malacañang, which created the commission, has expressed strong reservations about the commission's recommendations, saying the government was bound to implement the country's mining laws to ensure economic development.

Aside from Bastes, also expected to attend this afternoon's meeting is former forester Greg Tabuena, a member of the commission who dissented from its findings.

"I do not agree with the recommendation on the issuance of a moratorium on mining on Rapu-Rapu. As previously stated, there is no factual or scientific basis for the findings of the commission," Tabuena said in a separate report.

Also to attend the meeting in addition to DENR scientists and Lafayette officials are local officials from Rapu-Rapu and other affected communities.

In calling for the meeting, Reyes said that mining had proven to be the "bridge to a prosperous future" in many countries.

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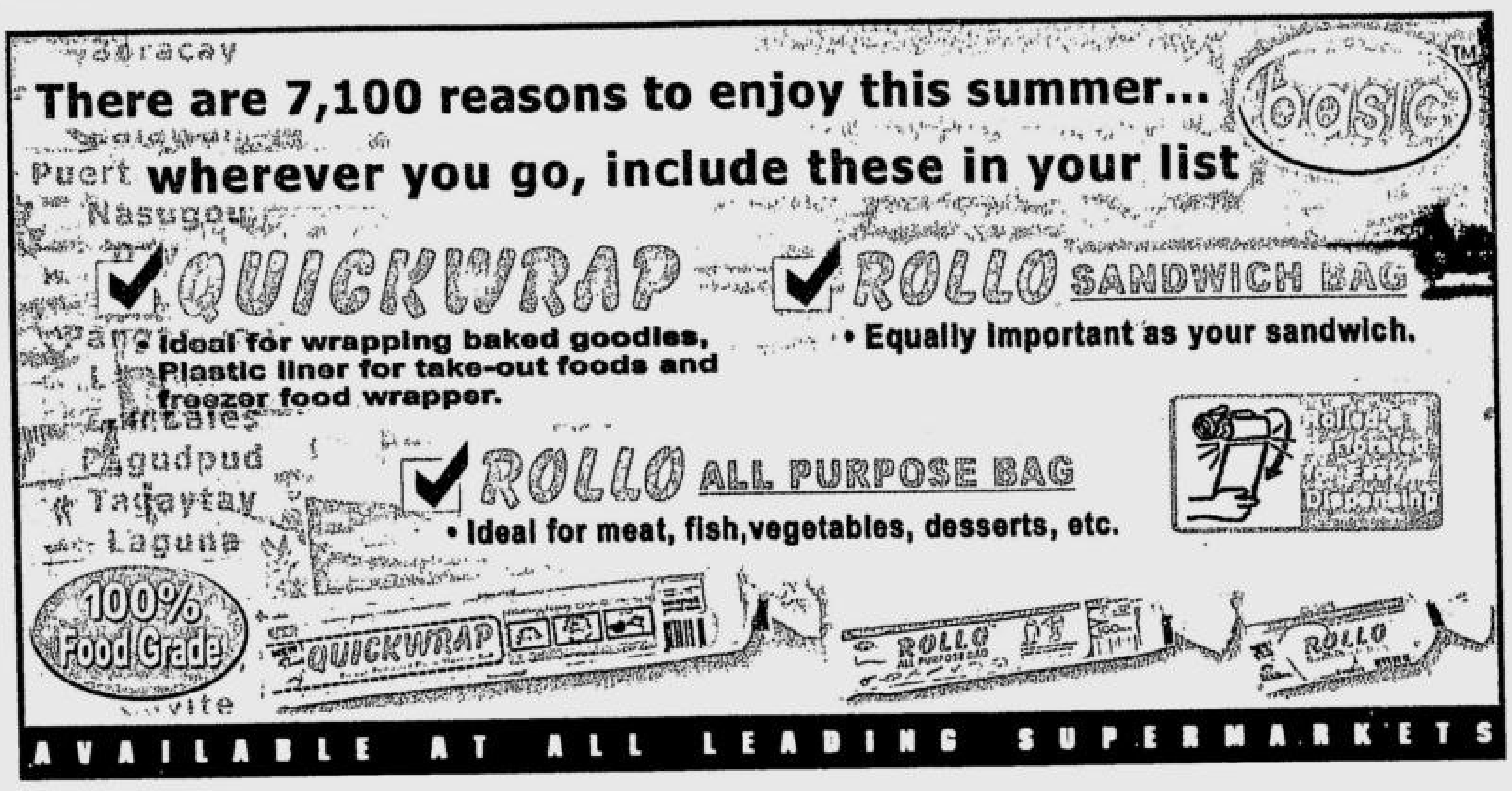
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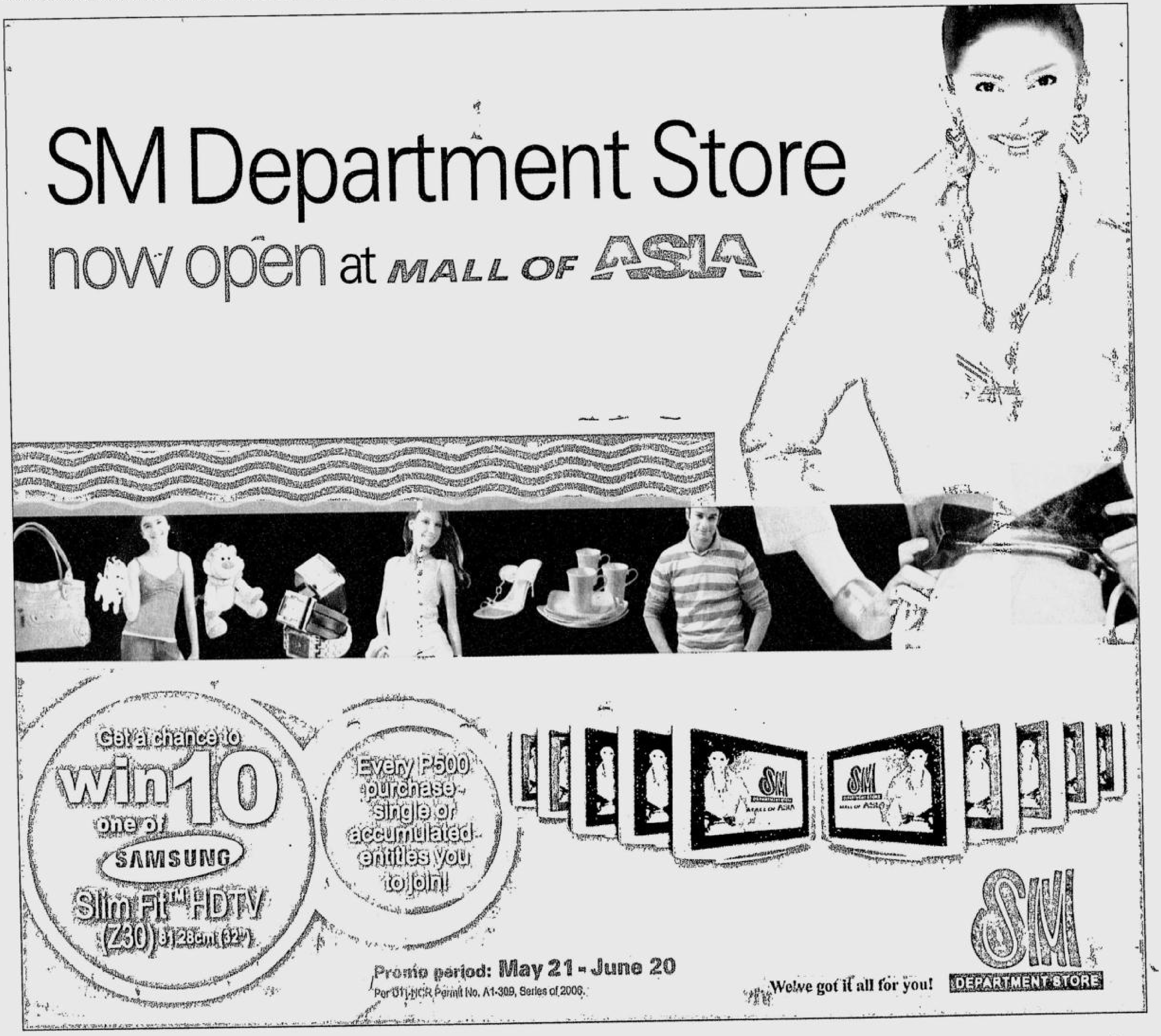
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Palace: EO 464 still in effect

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY REMINDED senators that Executive Order 464 was still in effect even after the Supreme Court had deemed portions of it unconstitutional.

"It's just a procedural matter. It's not really a matter of failing to respond to the inquiries. EO 464 is still in effect," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters in explaining the absence of military and police officials from the Senate inquiry.

Ermita also said the authorities got their invitation to the inquiry only on Monday.

"We should also give a chance for the resource persons invited to be [informed of] the nature of the inquiry and the probable questions or things to be cleared, and to get the permit from the OP (Office of the President)," he said.

Under EO 464, all Cabinet officials, government executives and military and police officers are required to get the President's approval before appearing at any Congress inquiry.

The Supreme Court, however, has ruled that the EO unduly hampered Congress' role as a countercheck to Malacañang's actions. Its ruling is on appeal.

The Philippine National Police also invoked the fact that the high court's junking of EO 464 was not yet final.

"Up to now the decision of the Supreme Court has not ripened into a final and executory decision because the Office of the Solicitor General has filed a motion for reconsideration," said PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

"So at this point, the government can still invoke EO 464," he said.

Pagdilao also said one of those invited to the Senate inquiry, Director Jesus Versoza, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, had obtained "clearance" from Malacañang to go to the House of Representatives for another hearing.

Versoza was scheduled to appear at the House from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Pagdilao said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto*

ERMITA: Not yet final

Stop killers, GMA urged

From page A1

pines (AIP) said in a statement yesterday.

Jessica Soto, AIP executive director, said members of groups perpetrating extrajudicial executions should be brought to justice.

Mei Orias, a media affairs officer of AIP, told the INQUIRER that the watchdog was preparing a report on extrajudicial killings, including cases in which vigilantes allied with some personalities in the AFP were involved.

The Philippine human rights group Karapatan said it had documented the killings of 73 leftist activists by suspected government forces or their agents so far this year, and 152 in 2005.

More than 140 left-wing activists have been abducted and remain missing since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001, and almost 600 have been killed during the same period, it said.

At least 79 journalists have been killed since democracy was restored in 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

The most recent killing was the ambush on Monday in Tabaco City of Sotero Llamas, a former communist rebel leader. *(See story on Page A1.)*

The Arroyo administration has denied any involvement in the killings and abductions.

Go extra mile

Soto said the President "must also go the extra mile to make it absolutely clear that this government will not shirk its responsibility to protect the individuals at risk—whether journalists, leftist activists or suspected criminals."

"Why are you allowing death squads to decimate the ranks of the legal Left?" Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo asked Ms Arroyo.

"The killings have reached an alarming rate and even included Sotero Llamas who, like us party-list representatives, was also charged with rebellion," Ocampo said.

Speak out

He said Ms Arroyo was allowing her forces to "get rid of us because it jibes with her self-serving objective of silencing … calls for her ouster, which the Left vigorously pursues."

Rep. Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis called on the Catholic Church and other religious groups to speak out against the killings.

Rep. Risa Hontiveros, for her part, believed that the military "wishes to push the envelop further" by staging so-called "peace" rallies in rural areas in which effigies of left-leaning leaders are burned.

She said such military-backed rallies were stoking an "irrational fear and hatred against all forms of dissent."

Used as scapegoat

A congressman came to the defense of the administration.

"Government is being unfairly used as a scapegoat for the killings. We challenge accusers to bring their case to the legal forum and prove their charges instead of maligning government," said Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu City.

Malacañang acknowledged that it would remain a suspect in the rash of killings unless authorities could present at least one of the perpetrators.

"What we should do is go after the real masterminds of these killings. That's the only way to answer all these charges," said Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor in an interview with the INQUIRER.

He said the government was not anticommunist. "We encourage communism as well as socialism as a party just like those in Europe. What we do not want is when they preach armed revolution," said Defensor.

At a briefing with reporters, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government would rather keep mum on the killings. "The more we talk about it, the more it is being used for propaganda," said Ermita.

"They (communists) only want to protect their own interest by blaming everything on the government because they think their position will become stronger," he said.

Third angle

Ermita said the public should wait for the results of the probe of Task Force Usig and those of the military and intelligence community upon the directive of the President. He earlier suggested that the killings were part of a purge by the communists.

Task Force Usig of the PNP offered up a third angle in the killings.

A senior police official said investigators were vigorously looking into the possible involvement of a paramilitary organization closely identified with former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

The first angle was the killings were a result of a purge within the Communist Party of the Philippines, according to Director Marcelo Ele Jr., chief of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

The second angle was that the military and the police were behind the extrajudicial killings.

The police based the third theory on the recovery of a black sweatshirt that the men who shot journalist Alberto Orsolino left behind during their escape in Caloocan City on May 16. Ele said the sweatshirt bore the logo of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., Honasan's faction of the group.

But Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes dismissed the angle as just another ploy to draw attention away from the administration.

Police finally see pattern

Some 224 dead activists later, the police are finally starting to see a "pattern" in the killings.

"The pattern that we are referring to is based on the facts—that first, these killings could not be said to be individual or separate. That's the pattern that is beginning to develop in the investigations of Task Force Usig," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said.

His statement deviated from earlier pronouncements by task force officials that the killings were not "serialized."

Without directly saying it, officials also hinted that the killings were part of the moves to destabilize the administration.

Use of motorcycles

Although pieces of evidence were still being evaluated, this angle was being explored because the police said they "cannot say that these killings suddenly came about without rhyme or reason."

One glaring similarity in the killings was the use of motorcycles as getaway vehicles, according to the task force.

As a result, the police hierarchy has directed field commanders to set up checkpoints and to include motorcycles in inspections. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, AP and AFP*

Military intel agent held in Sotero Llamas killing

From page A1

be murdered since 2001 when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office, according to an INQUIRER tally.

His friend and driver, Marciano Bitara Jr., was wounded.

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal yesterday dismissed as "bloody intrigue" the military claim that the NPA was behind the killing of Llamas, who had spent nearly half his life in the revolutionary movement.

On Monday, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., chief of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), claimed that an NPA hit squad was responsible for the murder as part of a continuing purge of suspected spies and traitors in the rebel ranks.

Fiesta visitor

When she came to see her husband's body at Bercasio Funeral Homes on Monday, Nemia Llamas told the INQUIRER that Llamas had cried before a man who came to their house in Barangay Guinobat during the fiesta celebration on May 20.

She said her husband later told her that the visitor was a certain Boya from the Isafp.

Her husband welcomed the man and they had a discreet talk inside their house, according to Nemia. She said she then saw her husband crying and heard him tell the man in Filipino:

"How are you, Boya? Why are you here? Even if you don't tell me, I know what you want. If you are after me, leave me alone because I left a long time ago and I am now concerned about my family."

Nemia described the visitor to investigators from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Bicol. An artist's sketch led to Martirez's identification.

Civilian contractor?

Bataller said Martirez denied being connected to Isafp and insisted that he was a civilian and small-time contractor in Manila.

But the police officer said that Martirez admitted he visited Llamas during the barangay fiesta and that the former rebel cried in front of him because he was very drunk.

Bataller appealed to witnesses to come out and help solve the killing. One witness had told investigators that he could not recall the faces of the assassins because the attack happened so fast, he said.

Llamas' driver, Bitara, 56, said that just before the ambush, he was told by Llamas to make a U-turn. While he was maneuvering the van, the assailants on a motorcycle suddenly stopped and fired several times at Llamas, Bitara said.

Police theorized that Llamas might have seen the gunmen and was avoiding them.

Good relations

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, Rosal said the rebel movement had maintained good relations with the victim even after he had left his comrades.

"There was no enmity between Ka Teroy (Llamas) and the revolutionary movement. He had always remained a respected friend of the CPP-NPA-NDF and his contributions to the revolutionary cause were duly recognized and appreciated by the revolutionary forces," he said.

Rosal accused Malacañang and the AFP of masterminding the killing. He vowed that the NPA would punish the "military death squads" being directed by the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security.

Emergency state

Cabuay claimed that Llamas was disowned by his former comrades when he ran for governor of Albay in the 2004 elections under the breakaway faction of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) headed by presidential aspirant, Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Nemia recalled that when the President declared a state of national emergency in February, purportedly to break a Right-Left conspiracy to oust her, Llamas did not leave their house for fear of stalkers.

"Although he did not tell me about his situation, I could sense that he was conscious about his safety and had mentioned about men tailing him," she said.

According to Bitara, Llamas had also told him that he would rather be imprisoned than go back to the mountains.

Llamas joined the NPA in 1971 while he was studying political science at Aquinas University in Legazpi City. He was then the chair of the local chapter of the Kabataang Makabayan. It was only in 1986 when he was able to see his family again during the Aquino administration's declaration of a ceasefire to pave the way for peace negotiations.

He went underground anew when the peace process failed. He was wounded during an encounter with soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Battalion and was captured in Barangay Lajong, Juban, Sorsogon, on May 25, 1995.

His release was one of the conditions set by the CPP-led National Democratic Front for the resumption of peace talks with the government.

Llamas stayed in Manila in the late 1990s and resided in Tabaco from 2001 until his death. He was engaged in the buying and selling of scrap materials while his wife made pili candies.

After he lost in the Albay gubernatorial race in 2004, he went full-time into the junk shop business.

His remains lie at the Chinese Chapel in Barangay Tayhi, this city. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AFP chief no-show …

From page A1

[concern] for people who are violating criminally the laws of this country? My God, they do not even know the meaning of 'rebellion.' They must explain why they arrested these people," Enrile said.

Not really martial law

Enrile suggested that Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, defense committee chair who presided over the hearing, take up the matter "directly and courteously" with Ms Arroyo herself.

"Considering that we are not under martial law, I think she will understand that … she must allow these people to appear and not hide under the so-called EO 464 that has been thrown out by the Supreme Court," Enrile said.

He added: "But if they would insist on not appearing here, I would suggest that we use the coercive powers of the Senate to compel [their] appearance, and let us test the whole thing finally before the Supreme Court.

"There must be some order of governance in this country. It cannot be like this."

Only Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing and four of the five Estrada supporters—Virgilio Eustaquio, chair of the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice, Jim Cabauatan, Dennis Ebona and PO3 Jose Curameng—showed up at the hearing.

Biazon spoke with the fifth man, Ruben Dionisio, by phone. Dionisio is confined at an undisclosed hospital.

All rights violated

Dionisio told Biazon his doctor did not allow him to go to the Senate because of his condition—three broken ribs and swollen lungs, ostensibly the result of the torture he suffered.

The four men recounted the circumstances of their arrest and reiterated details of the alleged mental torture inflicted on them.

Quisumbing said the abduction of the five men violated practically all civil and political rights guaranteed in the Constitution and international human rights protocols.

She said the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) agents who were in plain clothes clearly committed torture, illegal arrest, arbitrary detention and abuse of authority.

"You can throw the book [at them]," she told the senators.

"But what is significant about this [case] is that [it] was done in broad daylight… If this thing can happen right here in the middle of Metro Manila to persons who obviously have certain influential friends, what about ordinary persons?"

Pretrial probe

But while Quisumbing and the senators were one in condemning the incident, they could not even get the names of the Isafp agents involved.

Senga had ordered that the intelligence agents accused of the illegal arrest and torture of the Estrada supporters be made to undergo a pretrial investigation in preparation of a possible court-martial, the AFP announced yesterday.

Military spokespersons refused to name the Isafp officers and agents to be investigated, but insiders said the probe would involve two officers and six enlisted personnel of the Military Intelligence Group 15 (MIG-15), the Isafp operational unit in Metro Manila.

Senga's directive was announced even as he and the other military officials snubbed the Senate inquiry.

In a letter, Senga said he had to attend a previously scheduled meeting and he had designated Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, to represent him "subject to approval by the President pursuant to EO 464."

In another letter on the same day, Senga said he had "requested… clearance from the President" to allow Maclang, as well as Isafp chief Commodore Leonardo Calderon and MIG-15 group commander Lt. Col. Henry Robinson Jr. to attend the hearing.

"Rest assured that they will attend the said hearing once the request is approved by the President," Senga said.

Jago has no orders

Col. Tristan Kison, chief of the AFP Public Information Office, said Senga gave the order for a preliminary investigation based on the recommendation of Isafp chief Calderon.

But the INQUIRER learned that the Judge Advocate General's Office had yet to receive Senga's order.

Kison said the designated AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado, would announce the names of the agents involved.

Honrado, however, told reporters: "I'm sorry I'm not privileged to tell you the [names] at this point."

He said the Isafp operatives would be investigated for possible violation of Article of War 96 (conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) and AW 97 (conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline).

"The pretrial investigation will determine whether there is culpability or not, [whether] there is enough reason or evidence for the convening of a court-martial," Honrado said.

Each step in a court-martial has to be approved by the AFP chief of staff—from the conduct of the pretrial investigation to the actual trial, from the composition of the tribunal to approval of the verdict.

Last week, Senga said the Isafp agents followed "proper procedures" in the arrest of the five men, who are accused of rebellion and of plotting to kill Ms Arroyo and certain members of her Cabinet.

He also defended Kison for initially denying that the five were in AFP custody.

'Lying through teeth'

Marie Hilao-Enriquez, secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan, scoffed at the announcement of a military investigation.

"Nothing has ever come out of their so-called investigations. No case has prospered against military abuses. And they're even lying through their teeth," said Enriquez, whose family was among the thousands of victims of rights abuse during martial law.

The CHR's Quisumbing pointed out that the arrest of the five men was done, not by the police which had the power to do so, but by the AFP.

"Torture is a terrible thing. It's bad enough when persons are not safe in their homes or even… when they are traveling," she said.

'Culture of impunity'

Said Biazon: "This could send chills along the spines of our people if we allow our law enforcers to do this."

Enrile described the arrests as brazen and in full violation of the law.

Quisumbing said that it was on the morning of May 22, the same day the five men were arrested, that the CHR held a press conference to issue "a very strong statement holding the government accountable for the spate of killings" of journalists and militant activists in recent months.

She said injustice would continue if "the state or culture of impunity" were allowed to prevail.

She advised the Senate to approve the bill seeking to make torture a crime and another one increasing the penalty for arbitrary detention.

Quisumbing said a CHR team was looking into the case of the Estrada supporters but was being hampered by their lawyers' refusal to allow them to issue statements because of their plan to file charges against the Isafp agents.

Isafp report

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. told reporters that he received on Monday night a copy of the Isafp report on the abduction, detention and alleged torture of the five men.

He said the report contained the names of the agents in question, but declined to disclose them.

"We will have a caucus and we will discuss what to do with the report. Hopefully, the problem concerning the Isafp will be resolved," said Villar, who chairs the committee on finance.

On May 26, the Senate considered the P45-billion budget of the Department of National Defense as good as submitted provided the military brass submitted on Monday its report on the incident.

Recall DND budget

Sen. Panfilo Lacson suggested at the hearing that the Senate finance committee recall the DND budget until the military officers appear at the inquiry.

Sen. Serge Osmeña told reporters yesterday the AFP had given the names of the Isafp agents involved during an executive session last week.

He said the senators could not reveal the names unless the finance committee voted to lift the confidentiality of the information.

Biazon, however, denied the Isafp agents' names were furnished the senators. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 31, 2006
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1st Reading: Zeph 3:14-18 (or Rom 12:9-16)
Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Mary then set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit, and giving a loud cry, said, "You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!"

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit exults in God my savior! He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness, and people forever will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, Holy is his Name! From age to age his mercy extends to those who live in his presence.

He has acted with power and done wonders, and scattered the proud with their plans.

He has put down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up those who are downtrodden.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He held out his hand to Israel, his servant, for he remembered his mercy, even as he promised our fathers, Abraham and his descendants forever."

Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

Commentary

The Word is in the world and Mary travels to see Elizabeth for sanctuary and refuge. Her prayer would be that of the whole people crying out for joy that God is with them and there is no need to fear anymore. "God is within you, Yahweh, saving warrior. He will jump for joy on seeing you, for he has revived his love." This is what is happening with Elizabeth and John—the prophets of the earlier covenant—and Mary, the prophet of the new covenant—that is the person/word Jesus the Lord. We rejoice for our God is within us. We are the Body of Christ in the world.

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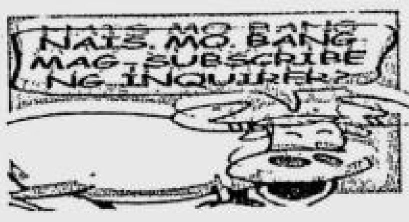
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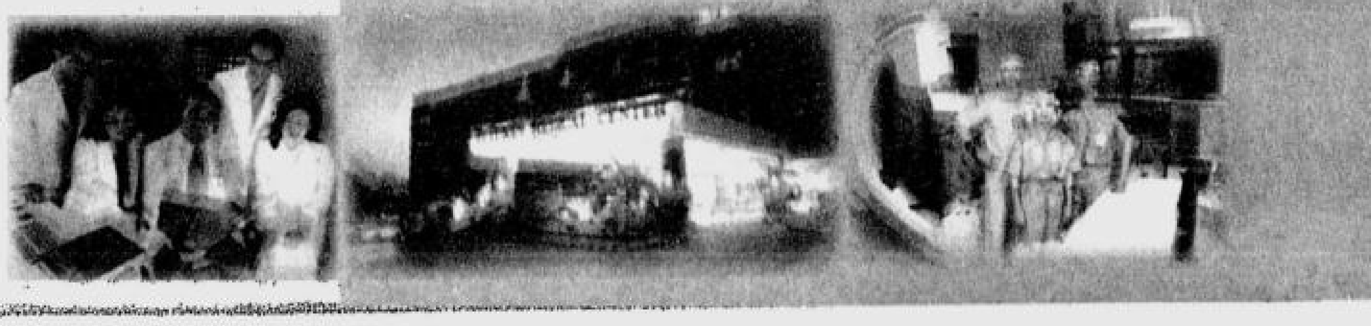

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By Luige A. del Puerto

SOME 100 FARMERS from the Bondoc peninsula in Quezon province accompanied by their families trooped yesterday to Camp Crame in Quezon City to voluntarily surrender to the police in a symbolic protest against the harassment they claimed to have suffered in the hands of their landlords.

Criminal cases

The farmers, belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula (KMBP), face a total of 187 criminal cases ranging from qualified theft, estafa to trespassing filed against them by the landowners.

The farmers have been fighting to have certain portions of coconut plantations in the towns of San Narciso, San Francisco and San Andres included in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), particularly where their houses and tenant farms are located.

Thirty-seven of the farmers had their arrest warrants with them, leaving the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group no choice but to take them into custody.

Their lawyer, Edgar Bernal, said the farmers feared that if violence broke out during their arrest in a remote area, it would be attributed to an encounter between the military and the communist New People's Army.

"We thought it was better for us to be arrested here. At least here we are assured of our safety," said farmer Henaro Saul, 43.

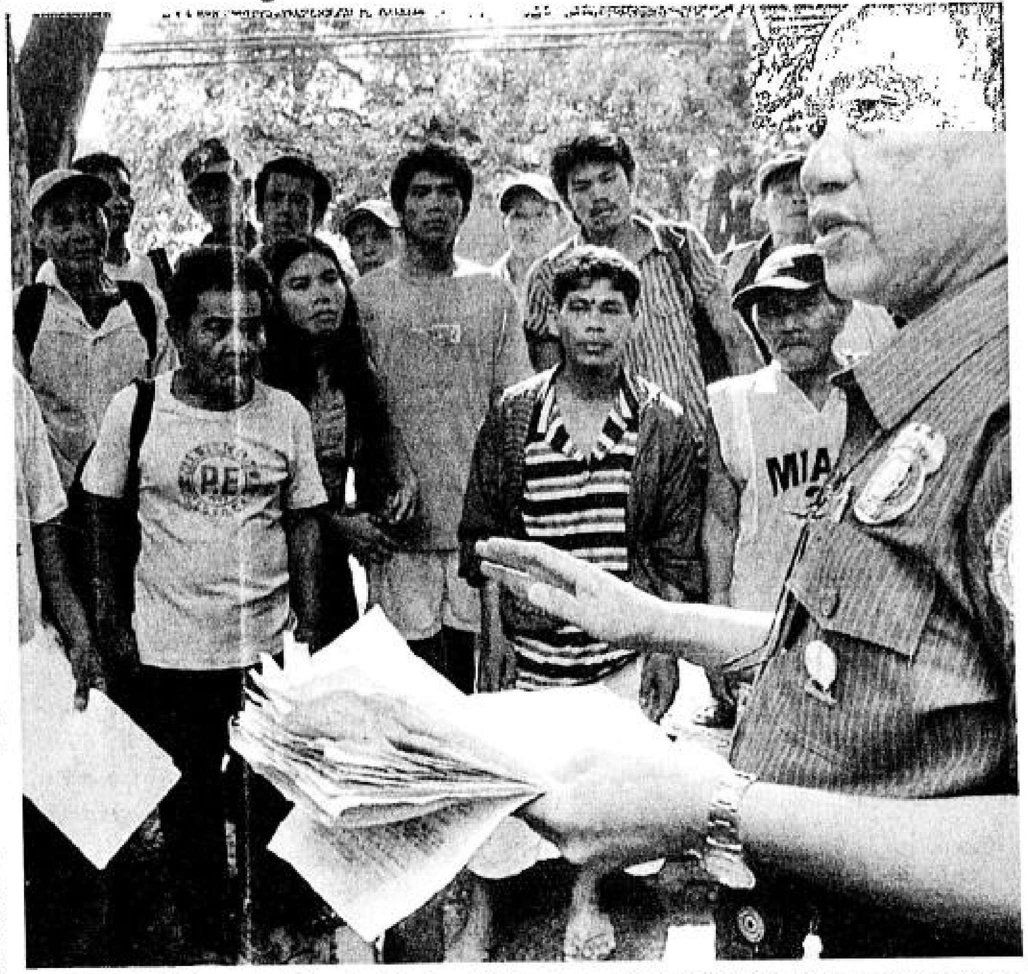
Actual arrests

In an e-mailed statement furnished the INQUIRER, KMBP president Eddie Lopez said the farmers were being harassed by big landlords and their private armies and even by the New People's Army operating in their area.

"Now we are faced with the reality of actual arrests often done with overwhelming force by combined elements of the CIDG, local police and the military with assistance from the private armed men and the hacienda administrators," Lopez said.

He said they were not criminals, so they should not be treated as such. "We are long-time legitimate tenants in the big landholdings and we just want to till our land peacefully."

In a phone interview, Lopez identified some of the landowners as the Uy, Reyes, Matias and Zoleta-Queblar families.



THE FARMERS from the Bondoc Peninsula listen to a police officer for instructions after they voluntarily surrendered at Camp Crame yesterday after their landlords filed charges against them.

JOAN BONDOC

Armed goons

Saul recounted how supposed policemen, soldiers and armed goons surrounded and then barged into his home in Barangay Tala in San Andres town at around 3 a.m. last month.

He was outside the house and heard the demands of the men for him to come out when he saw them break down the door and frighten his wife and three children who were asleep in the house at the time.

His wife said some of the men had on jackets identifying them as CIDG agents. Saul said he hid until the men left.

That day, he said, four farmers were arrested separately in town.

On another occasion, Maribel Lozara said goons poked a knife at her husband's neck and tried but failed to hack another relative in San Francisco town.

"I was so afraid," she said. "We could do nothing. We can't fight them."

The KMBP said in a statement that bail for all the accused totaled P1.9 million, excluding 127 cases now pending before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor.

The Peace Foundation, a group helping the farmers, said that by surrendering at Camp Crame, the farmers were bringing their plight to the attention of the government.

The farmers went to the Department of Justice the other day but were turned away, according to Bernal.

A justice undersecretary told them to return to Quezon and face the charges there, the lawyer said.

The farmers want the prosecutors to review all the cases filed against them and to dismiss those that were clearly agrarian in nature, Bernal said.

Chief Supt. Pedro Tango, deputy chief of the CIDG, said the farmers would be brought to the courts that issued the warrants.

Booking sheets

"We are now preparing their individual booking sheets. Then we will bring them to the hospital for routine medical checkups before they are brought to the courts that issued their warrants," Tango said.

The CIDG will also look into the farmers' claims that overwhelming force was used to arrest some of them and that the arrests were carried out at ungodly hour, he said. *With Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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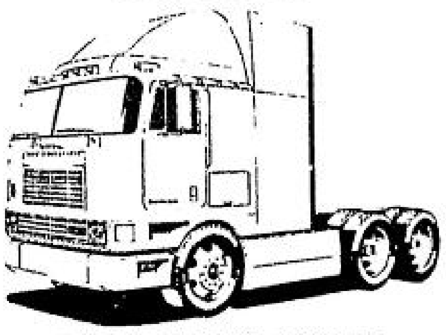

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Each class will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Room 205, Parc House 2, on Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC), invites consultants/firms to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project	Electrical Engineering Consulting Services for Evaluation of Site and Buildings and Preparation of Plans for Electrical System Improvement of DOH Central Office
Brief Description	The Consulting firm shall undertake the task of inspecting existing buildings at the DOH, Sta. Cruz, Manila and designing of electrical systems improvement which shall include the entire external and internal wiring within the DOH compound and buildings.
Approved Budget For the Contract	One Million Seventy-Five Pesos (Php 1,075,000.00)
Source of Funding	Government of the Philippines
Contract Duration	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only *three (3) to five (5)* eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be *Quality Cost Based Evaluation* (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 75% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry 70% weight in the bid evaluation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	June 1, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 1, 2006
3.	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	June 19, 2006
4.	Results of Eligibility Check	June 19, 2006
5.	Results of Short Listing	July 12, 2006
6.	Issuance of Bid Documents	July 12, 2006
7.	Pre-bid Conference	July 26, 2006

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at 3/F Bldg no. 6, Procurement Division, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila, upon submission of a letter of intent. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) to the Department of Health, Cashier's Office.

The Department of Health assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI - May 24 & 31, 2006)

Garci fails to appear at perjury probe

CITING HEADACHES and dizziness, among other ailments, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano failed to show up at yesterday's preliminary investigation of the perjury and falsification charges he is facing.

Instead, he sent his lawyer, Ed Tamondong, to submit his counter-affidavit, sworn to before an Iligan City prosecutor, in which he denied submitting a fake passport to the House committees investigating the "Hello Garci" controversy last year.

The statement said the complainants had failed to show sufficient proof that Garcillano's passport had been tampered with or that he had perjured himself when he claimed that he never left the country to avoid being questioned about election fraud allegedly committed to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tamondong presented a medical certificate stating that Garcillano could not appear before Quezon City Prosecutor Perfecto Lawrence Chua Cheng because he was suffering from a variety of illnesses, such as headaches and dizziness.

Lawyers for the complainants—Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 19 members of the House of Representatives—protested Garcillano's absence. But Tamondong countered that no law required his client to appear before the prosecutor.

Chua Cheng asked the complainants to submit their reply to Garcillano's counter-affidavit by June 6 and for Garcillano to submit his rejoinder by June 13. *DJ Yap*

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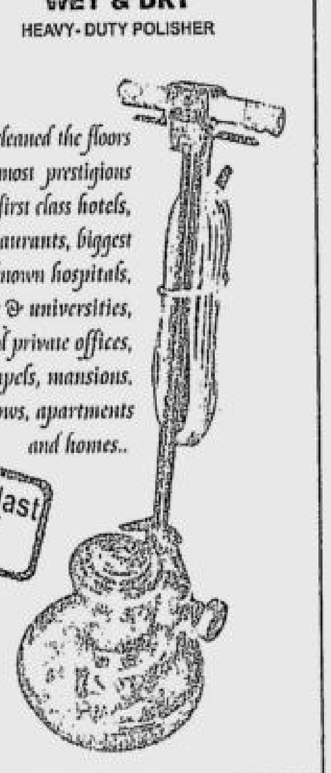

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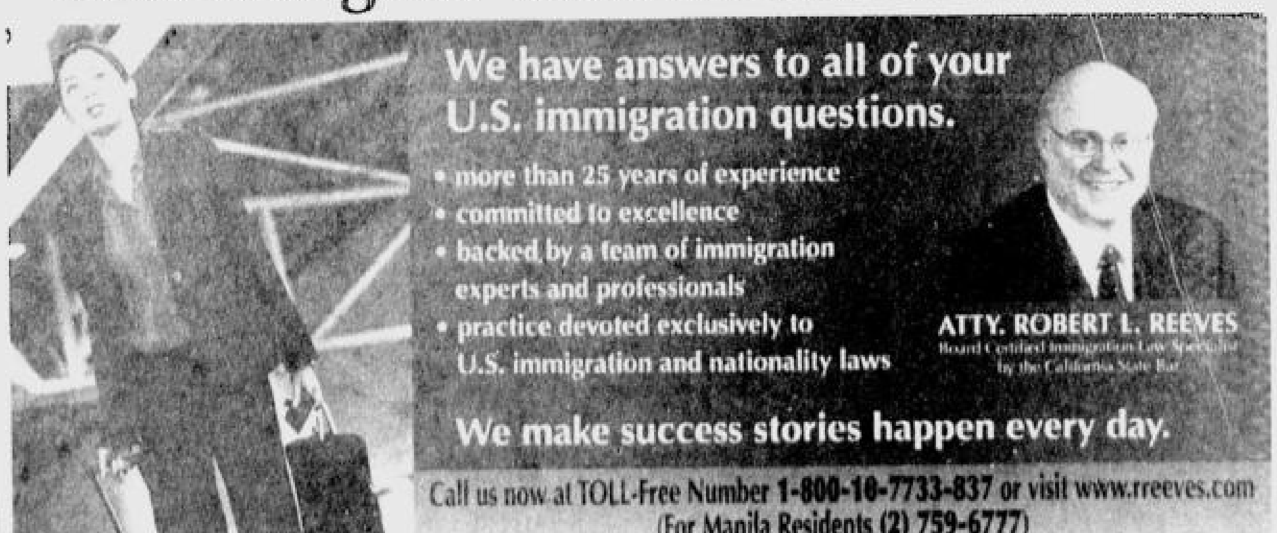

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VIP welcome for 1st Pinoys on Mt. Everest

CLOSEUP of the first Filipinos to conquer the world's tallest mountain. A motorcade for the country's latest heroes through Manila and Makati is scheduled today. JESS YUSON

From page A1

been properly acclimatized for the climb. He said he had heard that Abenojar had gotten sick in one of the camps.

"You don't recover right away and then assault the summit," Emata said in Filipino.

A lot of space

Valdez said Abenojar's published photograph showed that he apparently enjoyed a lot of space at the summit.

He said this was not the case at the top of Everest, where there was practically heavy traffic among the mountaineers.

"The summiteers would either be standing or sitting down because there is no more space. *Walang puedeng kumuha na mag-isa lang siya sa retrato* (No one can have a solo picture of himself there)," Valdez said, and presented photographs of Emata showing how crowded it was at the peak.

Oracion said prayer beads offered by the Nepalese should at least have been in Abenojar's photograph.

According to Valdez, the FPMEE will leave the matter at that.

"When we launched the FPMEE in March 2004, it built up a lot of enthusiasm among mountaineers who signified their intent to also climb Mt. Everest. We're happy that a lot of Filipinos wanted to achieve that feat," he said, adding:

"Everest is not a prize ... You can climb a mountain only if the mountain lets you."

Reconnaissance climb

Valdez said the FPMEE schedule would also not be affected by the plan of Romi Garduce, the country's most accomplished mountaineer and the third Filipino on Everest, to again scale the mountain this year.

He said the reconnaissance climb of Oracion and Emata was in preparation for the FPMEE's Unity Climb next year.

He added: "We really planned this reconnaissance climb of Leo and Pastor for this year. I will not assign a bigger group and put them at the summit of Everest without [reconnaissance].

"I've always said that the Philippine expedition would not have been complete without Romi Garduce."

Stratworks, one of the partners of the expedition, said an FPMEE team had been in Nepal since February preparing for the reconnaissance climb.

Winners' welcome

Garduce left the Philippines for Nepal on March 3. He reached the summit on May 19, after Oracion and Emata.

Despite the controversy, Oracion and Emata were treated to an airport welcome fit for winners, celebrities and even heads of state—except there was no red carpet.

FPMEE broadcast partner ABS-CBN had a live coverage of the team's arrival.

A buffet of sandwiches, cakes and fruits was laid out at the Naia Presidential Lounge, where the press conference was held.

Former President Fidel Ramos and other government officials led the welcoming committee.

Busy days ahead

According to the schedule provided by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which Oracion and Emata joined shortly before leaving for Nepal to scale Everest, the members of the FPMEE will have breakfast this morning with taipan Lucio Tan at the Century Park Hotel, where they are staying.

It was Tan who paid for the entire team's plane tickets to Nepal and back.

After breakfast, there will be a motorcade to Manila City Hall, where the mountaineers are expected to stay for half an hour.

The motorcade will proceed to Malacañang, where they will call on President Macapagal-Arroyo. Former President Ramos is expected to join Ms Arroyo.

Early in the afternoon, the team will proceed to PCG headquarters, where Oracion and Emata will be promoted to the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

The rank is equivalent to sergeant, said PCG spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Coyme.

Outstanding Achievement Medal

FPMEE physician Esguerra, who is also a PCG officer, will be given an Outstanding Achievement Medal.

From PCG headquarters, the motorcade will head to Makati City.

Tomorrow is also expected to be a busy day for the mountaineers.

They will visit media offices in the morning, and the Senate in Pasay City and the House of Representatives in Quezon City in the afternoon.

A party is scheduled at the National Sports Grill in Makati in the evening.

The mountaineers will get a chance to rest on Friday morning. In the afternoon, they will again make the rounds of various newspaper offices.

On Friday evening, the two will attend a street party, the location of which is still unspecified.

With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

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Too lazy ...

From page A1

That's right, a jump-rope minus the rope. All that's left are two handles, so you jump over the pretend rope.

Or if you are truly lazy, you can pretend to jump over the pretend rope.

And for that idea kicking around Clancy's head since 1988, the US Patent Office this month awarded the 52-year-old Mansfield, Ohio, man a patent. Its number—7037243.

What makes this invention work is the moving weights inside the handles. They simulate the feel of a rope moving, Clancy said.

Well, it's only one handle so far because Clancy is waiting for financial backers before building its partner.

But why jump rope without a rope?

Perfect for the clumsy

It's perfect for the clumsy, Clancy says. "If you are still jumping, you're still using your legs as well as your arms, and getting the cardiovascular workout. You just don't have to worry about tripping on the rope."

It is also good for mental institutions and prisons where rope is a suicide risk, says Clancy, who works as a laundry coordinator in a state prison.

And low ceiling fans are not a hazard any more, he says.

Daniel Wright, who features the cordless jump-rope on his website www.patentlysilly.com, can barely talk about Clancy's invention without laughing.

"What really grabbed me," Wright says, is the name the item has in its patent.

Silly but ...

The idea is not all that crazy, says Mike Ernst, a professor of kinesiology at California State University in Dominguez Hills.

"I think it's silly but at the same time if somehow, some way, it promotes physical activity, gets kids active, then I'm all for it," Ernst says.

The more he thinks about it, the more Ernst says he can see the benefit, adding that the act of jumping, not the rope itself, is what provides exercise.

"Do you need to jump with a rope? You don't," Ernst says. "But I wouldn't buy the product, I can tell you that. I'm not an idiot."

High-tech handles are not needed. You can even use toilet paper holders, Ernst says.

On second thought, Ernst wonders if he can patent that idea. AP

Court rules 'Wowowee' case may proceed

THE COURT OF APpeals has cleared the way for the prosecution of ABS-CBN officials for the stampede that killed at least 74 people and wounded hundreds of others last February by throwing out the giant network's petition seeking to stop the Department of Justice from proceeding with the case.

"Almost every adult Filipino is aware that in the morning of February 4, 2006, a stampede of people occurred outside the Philippine Sports Arena… resulting in the death of 74 persons and 687 wounded. It goes without saying that somebody … must be held accountable," the court said in a decision dated May 14 but released only yesterday.

The court also lifted the temporary restraining order it had issued against the DOJ on March 27 following the ABS-CBN petition.

Network executives had sought the injunction on the grounds that the DOJ, particularly Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, had been biased against ABS-CBN in statements made in the wake of the stampede, which occurred as tens of thousands of people rushed the arena's gates to gain entry into the first anniversary celebration of the noontime television show "Wowowee."

"For petitioners to be entitled to an injunctive writ, there must be a showing that the invasion of their right or alleged violation of due process is material and substantial and that there is an urgent and paramount necessity for the writ to present serious damage," the court said.

"In the case at bar, the Court finds no such urgency and paramount necessity for the issuance of injunctive writs prayed for. The rule is well settled that when the complainant's right is doubtful, a preliminary injunction is not proper." *Armand N. Nocum*

Ex-gov ordered arrested

THE SANDIGANBAyan First Division yesterday ordered the arrest of former Camarines Norte Gov. Casimiro "Roy" Padilla Jr. for alleged misuse of public property.

Sandiganbayan Presiding and First Division chair Teresita de Castro signed Padilla's arrest warrant and set bail at P30,000 for the latter's temporary liberty.

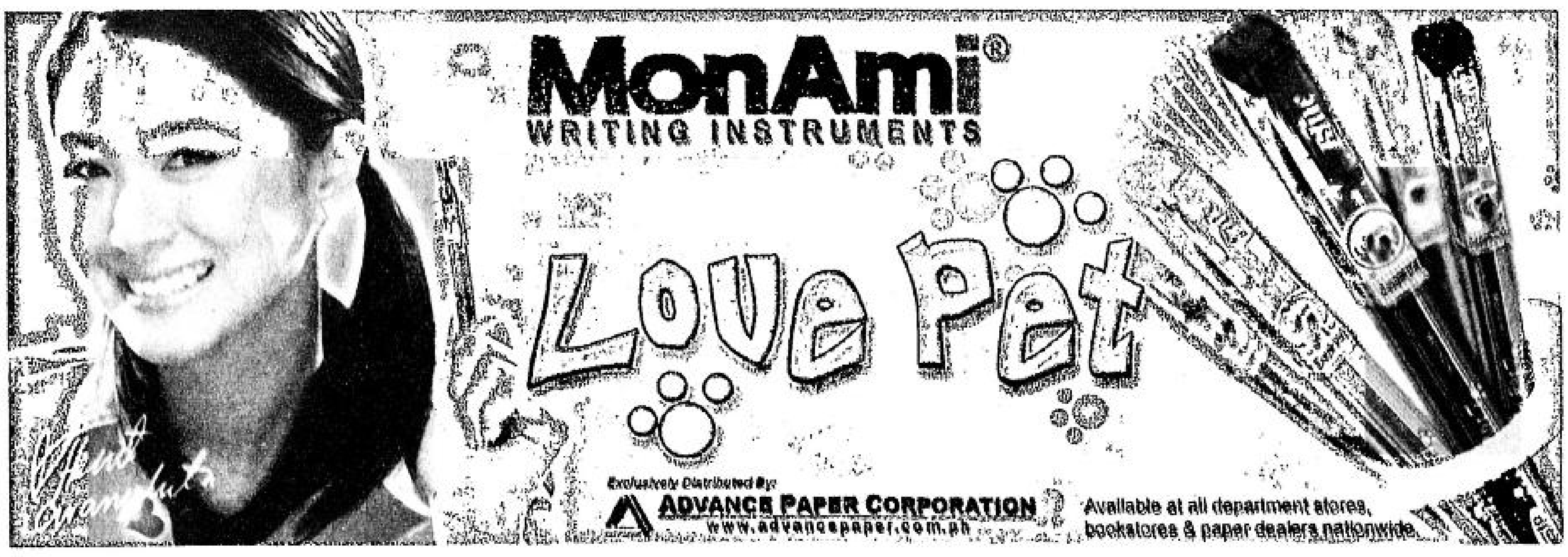
Government prosecutors charged Padilla, a brother of actors Robin and Rustom Padilla, on March 29, 2005, with malversation after he allegedly converted to personal use a .45-caliber pistol issued to him by the Philippine National Police.

In a separate order, De Castro also ordered the arrest of Zamboanga-Sibugay Vice Gov. Eugenio L. Famor, provincial secretary Nicasio Peña and private secretary Camacho Chiong.

State prosecutors accused the three of conspiracy to commit fraud when they allegedly falsified the eligibility papers of Chiong.

Investigators found that Chiong did not have a bachelor's degree, which was the minimum requirement for his position.

In his appointment papers, Chiong was identified as a college graduate and he had been supposedly screened and qualified by the Personnel Selection Board. *Nelson F. Flores*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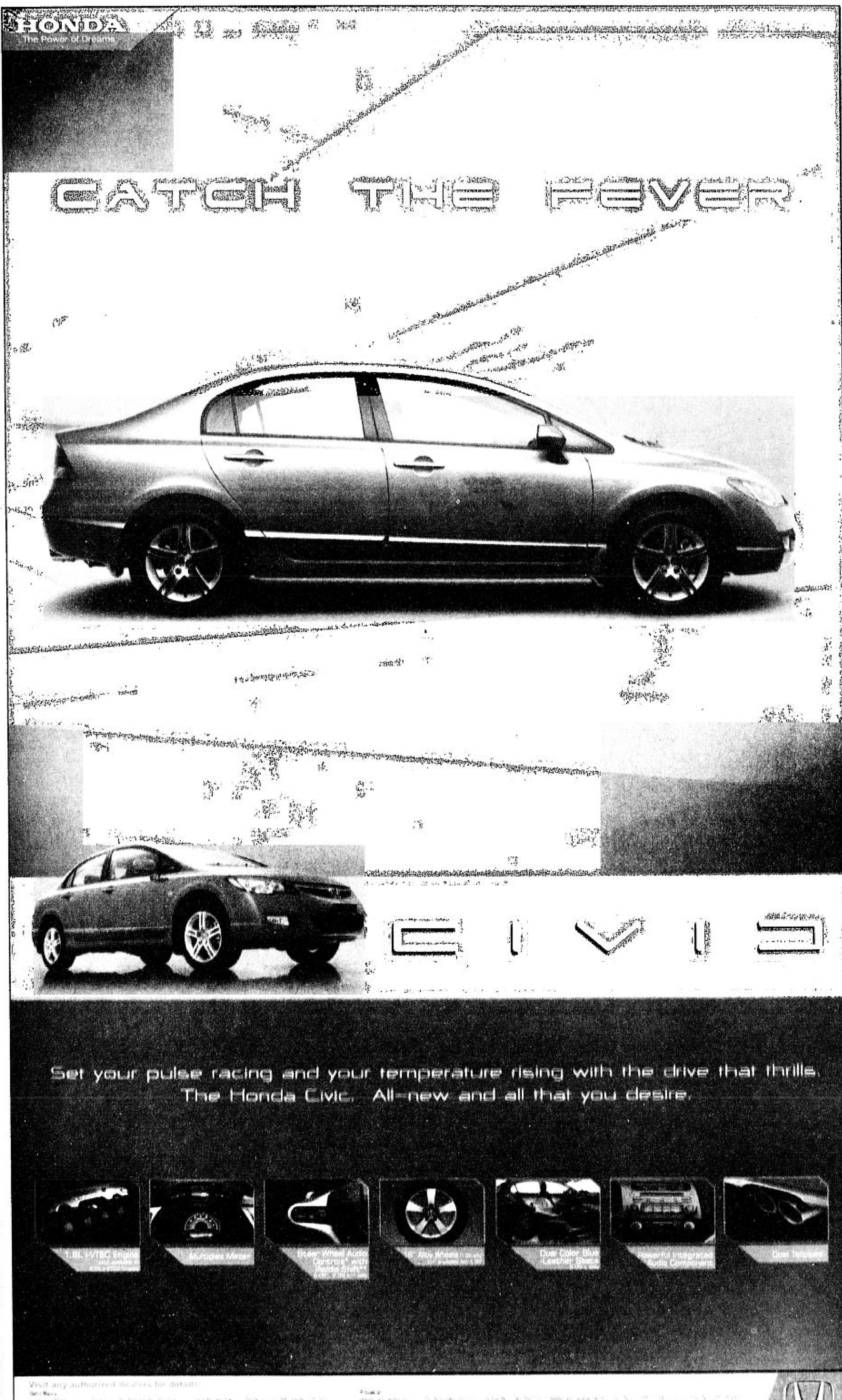
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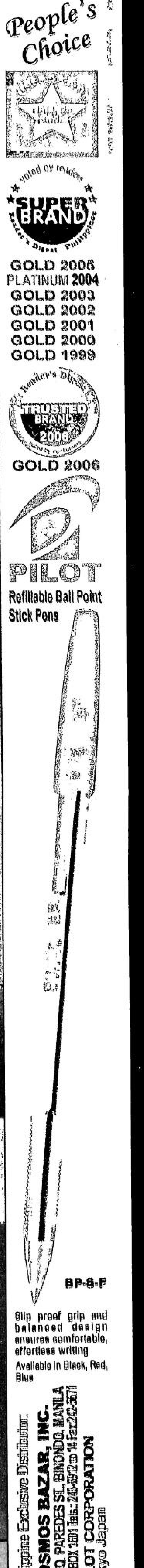
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 21 No. 172

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

OPINION

Does gov't want peace?

EDITORIAL

WHO MURDERED SOTERO LLAMAS? THE former New People's Army veteran turned peace process adviser and mainstream politician was gunned down in Tabaco City, Albay, the other day. The circumstances surrounding his assassination point to an all-too-familiar modus operandi. Recent killings, both of journalists considered troublesome and outspoken against the powers-that-be, and of political workers viewed as hostile to the administration and its allies, have been carried out by motorcycle-riding assassins. The question is, who had the motive to kill Llamas?

The man's checkered political past provides ample opportunities for suggesting who might have wanted him killed. The former NPA rebel gave up armed struggle and decided to pursue change through the electoral process, allying himself most recently with opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson. And yet when the Department of Justice alleged a conspiracy to commit rebellion on the part of leftists and rightists last February, Llamas was one of 51 persons accused of being part of the plot.

Therefore, even as the military insists that it was his former comrades who killed Llamas, there is reason enough to put forward the possibility that his murder served a purpose useful to non-communists as well. And this is why the outrage has been genuine and widespread over his murder. Someone is killed, and immediately, without benefit of investigation, but instead, primarily based on its preconceived notions, the military is quick to write off the assassination as part of an internal party purge.

The poisoned and poisonous peace and order situation is clearly shown by the official reaction and the public's counter-reaction. Certainly, the murder of a rebel-turned-entrepreneur (Llamas was in the scrap business), regardless of his present politics, doesn't speak well of the prospects for former rebels who want to live peaceful lives. The clear lesson is that whether in the field or outside the home after abandoning the struggle, death is the only reward for rebels. So much for reintegrating rebels into mainstream society. That's futile.

Another lesson: the writ of the government doesn't extend farther than the doorstep of the governor's mansion or the local police station. Everywhere else, no one is safe, and particularly unsafe are people who do not belong to the administration camp. The government, after all, has its own share of former rebels, and none of them have died. Why are oppositionist former rebels so unlucky?

Granting that the Communist Party of the Philippines is undertaking a purge, the current edition is certainly different from past ones. Now party liquidations are taking place in public, the peace and order situation being such that they can be carried out with impunity. Furthermore, the official attitude is, let them kill each other and rid us of a problem. That is the clear message sent by official statements that explain away the assassinations while suggesting that there's no further incentive for investigating, much less punishing, such murders.

Civilian officials, such as Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, may choose to accentuate Llamas' apostasy (his leaving the NPA) while the Philippine Army and police claim that apostasy comes with a price like liquidation by one's ex-comrades. But they cannot ignore the fact that the government counted Llamas among its enemies. Neither can they shrug off the fact that it is the obligation of the government to defend citizens like Llamas and that it is its duty to punish his murderers.

But that is presuming that the administration is genuinely interested in peace, the rule of law and justice. That is, if it honestly believes that it is better to get rebels to lay down their arms and join the regular political process. That is, if it seeks to offer hope of a better future for those who surrender their arms and take up, instead, a useful trade, and a peaceful attitude toward political questions. That is, if its idea of peace is an untroubled life for living people, and not the silence of the grave.

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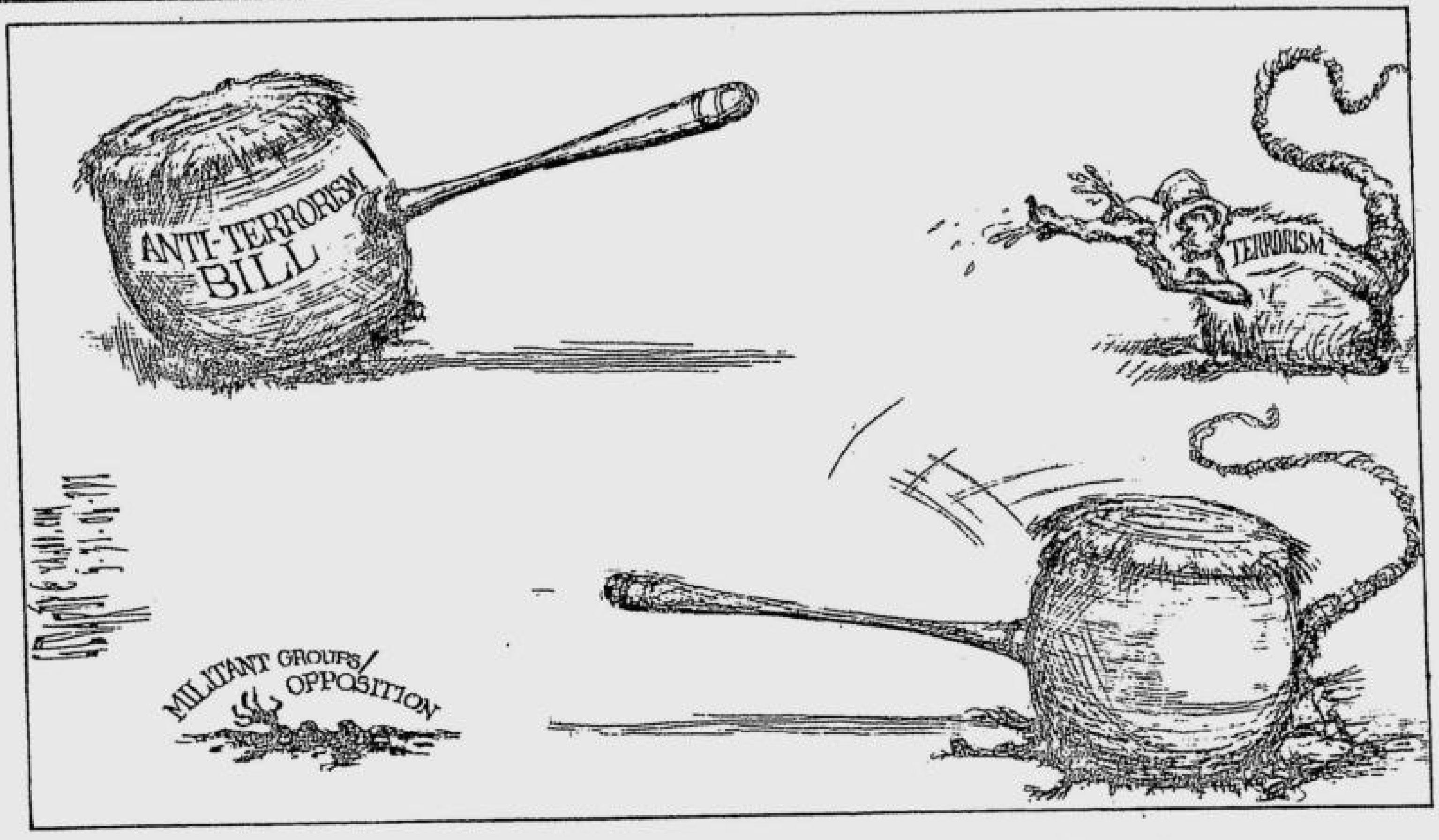


SC decision cited only 48 hectares for housing

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE CONTROVERSIAL HOUSING PROJECTS of allegedly retired and current employees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System inside the La Mesa Watershed have opened a can of worms. The more MWSS officials, alleged union officials, congressmen and public relations practitioners try to defend the projects in a Senate committee investigation and in media and public forums, the deeper they get into a morass of contradictions.

For example, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade sent letters to the editor defending the housing projects. In his May 26 letter, Lagman repeated his arguments in his privilege speech which were already refuted in the May 24 and 26 columns. But in the very long letter, Lagman did not answer a very important question I asked. Lagman is claiming 58 hectares of La Mesa watershed for the housing project, but the 1,411 alleged beneficiaries would need only 423,000 sq m, or 42.3 hectares, for their houses. So what will happen to the remaining 15 hectares?

I posed this question at the Kapihan sa Manila to Lagman and the others defending the project, but they did not answer it. So I asked it again in the May 24 column: "Is it true that this will be used for a commercial complex, a mall and high-rise condominiums? Is it true that this will take up the entire portion along Quirino Avenue?"

Although his letter tried to refute the May 24 column, Lagman again evaded the question. Why?

The mystery gets deeper. I read the decision of the Supreme Court affirming the contract between the MWSS and the two labor unions and—surprise, surprise—the size of the land to be sold is less than 48 hectares: 348,698 sq m saleable area and 130,735 sq m for the road network, for a total of 479,433 sq m. So where did the additional 10 hectares come from?

I searched the other pertinent documents and there was no additional 10 hectares. What is going on here? Is somebody trying to pull a fast one?

Another question: Who paid the more than P3 million to the MWSS for the land? At the Kapihan sa Manila on May 22, Lagman said it was Genaro Bautista, the attorney-in-fact, who had to "mortgage his property to produce the money." Yet at the Senate hearing that took place before the Kapihan and where Lagman was present, Ramon Nolido, a contractor, admitted that the check came from him.

Lagman insists that he is only an "adviser" of the beneficiaries. Yet he was the one who hand-carried the check to the MWSS office. The letter from Lagman accompanying the check was written on official stationery of the House of Representatives with his name printed on it. The Constitution prohibits congressmen and senators from acting as lawyers during their incumbency so that they cannot influence other offices and officials. The use of the official House stationery was obviously intended to influence the MWSS officials and therefore a violation of the law.

The impression is being given that the site has already been titled to the individual beneficiaries. Wrong. The title, TCT 61126, and photocopies of eight tax declarations were taken by Lagman at 2:10 p.m. on March 8, 2006. Are all of these the job of a mere "adviser" who is doing these "pro bono"?

Lagman was not invited to the May 22 Kapihan. Those who were invited were the president of the labor union, the hydraulic experts of the University of the Philippines, and representatives of Bantay Kalikasan. But a PR man called to ask if Lagman could attend. I said the president of the union had already been invited, meaning Genaro Bautista.

"We don't allow him to attend forums," the PR man said. "Let Lagman represent the union instead."

I found this strange, but I consented out of fairness and courtesy to both Lagman and the PR man. At the Kapihan, Lagman did most of the talking for the union. He distributed copies of his privilege speech giving the legal justification for the project. I ask again: Is this the job of a mere "adviser" working "pro bono"?

Another mystery: Nobody knows for sure who would be the beneficiaries of the housing project. There is a list of the original awardees, a number of whom have died. Sen. Jamby Madrigal, a member of the committee on environment investigating the project, asked for a list of the original 1,411 awardees, another list of the intended beneficiaries/heirs and their residential addresses, and a copy of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) or any other documents authorizing the award and/or transfer of the housing lots to individuals other than the original beneficiaries. The MWSS has a list only of the original beneficiaries. It said it was "not aware of the existence/availability" of a copy of the 1968 CBA. Unbelievable! The MWSS should have a copy on file in its archives.

It also said that it does not know who will be the actual (i.e. 2006) beneficiaries should the project be implemented. Preposterous! Is the group of Lagman acting in behalf of the beneficiaries, even meeting with or consulting them?

This is important because the CBA being a contract, it is governed by the rules on contracts under the Civil Code. CBA provisions are not transferable to the employees' heirs o assigns, much less third parties or other individuals. (Since the other contracting party—the labor unions—no longer exists, there is serious doubt whether the provisions of th CBA may still be implemented.) If at all, th CBA should benefit only the 1968 beneficiaries.

(More later)

Enchanted kingdoms

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE SURREALISM NEVER ENDS, IT GETS even more, well, surreal. "Let's stay together," said GMA last week. "Let's dream together and reach the Enchanted Kingdom. Let's be among the countries of the First World in 20 years."

What can one say? She must be dreaming.

If the reference to a theme park conjuring the spirit of fairy tales makes any sense at all, it is only in that fairy tales have dwarves and ogres, princesses and dragons, witches and fairies in them. But as far as I can recall, the dwarves in those tales are kindly folk, people who, like the Seven Dwarves, rescued Snow White from her dire predicament if it meant risking starvation from having to feed a human who ate three times more than each one of them did. And who did a lot of sleeping while they trekked to the mines and worked their asses off, singing "I owe, I owe, so off to work I go."

It's not hard to tell which character the current occupant in Malacañang resembles. It's the one who keeps asking, "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" And keeps getting back the image of Fernando Poe Jr. in reply.

I myself have no problems with dreaming or thinking big. Indeed with imagining we can be a world-class country other than in boxing and billiards. In the past, I've lamented repeatedly how we've reached a pass where we now keep repeating like a mantra, "Beggars cannot be choosers." We were never like that in the 1960s. Then, despite the fact that we bestrode Southeast Asia like a titan, if not a colossus, Nick Joaquin could still cajole us to think big by shedding off our "heritage of smallness." Today, by contrast our doctors routinely fly off to distant shores to become nurses saying they have no choice. Doctors can't be choosers?

But there is thinking big and thinking big. There is the thinking big of Nick Joaquin, one that calls for aspiration and ambition on the wings of hard work, and there is the thinking big of Imelda and Gloria that call for Imeldification and glorification on the dead weight of lies. Gloria's promise to lead the country to First-World-hood amid the killings and the dealings, amid the grime and slime of her rule did remind me of Imelda painting the grass along the airport road green and hiding the hovels that lay upon the gaze of visiting dignitaries with huge billboards proclaiming the accomplishments of martial law.

There is the thinking big that comes from pride and self-respect. There is the thinking big that comes from delusion and deception.

I myself do think this country can attain if not prosperity—never mind First-World-hood—within the next 10 years at least big strides over that time. We Filipinos do not lack for talent and creativity, which we amply show abroad. What we lack is a break. All we need really to get far as a nation are three basic things.

First is food. You can't get more basic than that. This is a country that is going hungry amid the plenty of globalization. Food security should be this country's No. 1 priority, not national security, especially under Norberto Gonzales. A healthy mind cannot reside in a malnourished body, to paraphrase the Romans. Which probably explains why we have a lot of unhealthy minds in this country.

The second is education. Food for the body, food for the soul. This too is a country that is going ignorant amid the plenty of the digital revolution. I personally would like to see History emphasized here, my experience being that it is far more mind-blowing than jute or alcohol. It's the surest guarantee graduates will have a sense of country. A country that doesn't have a past will have no future. Indeed, a country that doesn't have a history will have no people: Its people will be busy leaving for other countries that have a past and future.

And the third is morality. A government ca dream all it wants about Enchanted Kingdom: but if it cannot provide elementary justice, cannot punish the villainous and reward th heroic, it cannot distinguish between good an evil, it will only bring its constituents to war der in the Dark Forest, never to find their wa home. You have no justice, you will have no d rection. You have no direction, you will hav no pride. You have no pride, you will have r aspiration.

We want to simply move, never mind t ward becoming a First World country, we nee those three things. Which are clearly the la things on this government's mind. You sti with Gloria and dream with her, you are n going to reach First World heaven, you are g ing to have one first-class nightmare.

I do have a favorite enchanted story thou I don't know if it qualifies as a fairy tale Brothers Grimm sense of the word. That "The Wizard of Oz." In that story, Dorothy girl who dreams of a better life leaves ho and is swept by a tornado to a strange la There she meets a Scarecrow, a Tin Man an Lion seeking respectively a brain, a heart a courage. They go to the Wizard of Oz to ask those things and he tells them he would g them on condition they first get rid of Wicked Witch of the West. They embark their quest and with the Scarecrow show much ingenuity, the Tin Man much loyalty a the Lion much courage, they accomplish When they get back to the Wizard to ask their brain, heart and courage, he asks th what on earth they want them for. They ready have them.

And, oh, the foursome also manages to pose the Wizard's secret, which is that he complete fake.

What can I say? All we have to do is rea we don't need fake wizards to give us a brai heart and courage. All we have to do is rea we've always had it in ourselves to get ri the Wicked Witch of the East:

And we can build one very enchanted king dom.

Climate of terror confronts press

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE WAVE OF MURDERS OF 79 FILIPINO JOURNALISTS since 1986, many of them gunned down during the past five years, has come under sharp scrutiny at the current annual world congress of the International Press Institute at Edinburgh.

It was part of the picture of the state of freedom of the press which IPI director Johann Fritz described as "rather shocking." He denounced, in a speech to international editors, repressive laws and regulations hampering the ability of media to carry out their duties and singled out recent restrictions of journalists' access to information under "anti-terrorism" pretexts.

Fritz said the American Committee to Protect Journalists reported that over the past five years, 723 journalists "have been imprisoned worldwide" and "a total of 372 journalists have been killed in the line of duty or murdered because of their investigative reporting." IPI Chair Wilfred D. Kiboro said, "Between 2004 and 2005, over 100 journalists were killed doing their jobs. Its the deadliest such period in 10 years."

Based on the criteria of repressive laws and regulations restricting journalists' access to information and the risks surrounding their pursuit of news, IPI listed 73 countries that had a "free press situation," 54 that were "partly free," and 67 that had no "free press" at all, out of the 194 countries monitored.

This classification of what's free or partly free or not free does not have any meaning at all to the Filipino public and seems too abstract, unless we consider the mounting death toll that appears regularly on Philippine newspaper front pages. Filipino journalists are being picked off one by one by assassins who are on the rampage.

It is of no consolation to Filipino journalists that their slain comrades suffered the same fate as their peers in other countries. The IPI singles out "anti-terrorism" pretexts as intimidating constraints to freedom of journalists to report events as they see them.

Here, we ignore the intimidating environment under which Filipino journalists must work. They are actually operating under a regime of terrorism, not emanating from terrorists associated with war on terror waged by the US-led "coalition the willing," but other forces abetted by government.

The climate of terror confronting Filipino journalists comes in the form of: (1) officially imposed restrictions on access to information; (2) crackdowns on media organizations charged with rebellion under the pretext of national emergency decrees and (3) the incapacity of government to stop the spiral of unsolved extra-judicial killings of journalists.

The third is the most scary and sinister form of terrorism. The continuing spiral does not only indicate a lack of political will on the part of the Arroyo administration to use police powers to stop the wave of violent crimes. What should concern citizens more is that indications are increasing that government itselft is promoting what Amnesty International and the Commission on Human Rights have called the "climate of impunity" that emboldens death squads to murder designated targets—whether leftist activists or journalists—without fear of being arrested or being taken to court.

Despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to investigate the murders and arrest the perpetrators, not many suspects have been haled to court. This suggests that law enforcement agents don't take presidential orders seriously or have already decided among themselves that either the perpetrators be allowed to go scot free or worse that they protect their own kind from prosecution.

The government and the military claim that the 224 leftists murdered during the five years of the Arroyo presidency were killed in internal communist purges. The Left considers hard-line anti-communist military factions as the main suspects behind the killings.

With regard to the murder of journalists, the response and attitude of the administration are revealing. Records show that most of the journalists were killed on their way to work or in their place or work. Most were known to be outspoken in denouncing venalities of officials. And most did not die in drunken brawls or over women, as Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has insinuated.

Rather than unleash the agents of the law to track down the death squads, Gonzalez has demonstrated a thuggery that undermines public confidence in it. He has offered two particularly offensive proposals.

First, the press must clean up its ranks of corrupt journalists, implying that journalists have brought the murders upon themselves. Second, he suggested that journalists be allowed to carry firearms to defend themselves, but on condition that only "legitimate" journalists be allowed to carry arms.

These proposals compound the problem of putting a stop to the killings. First, he wants the press to carry out its own self-purification to deny crooks any reason to kill journalists. But purity tests will not stop the killings. Honest journalists take as much risk when investigating venal officials. Second, Gonzalez does not say how "legitimate" journalists will be identified.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines has correctly decided to reject the proposal to arm journalists on the ground that rather than stopping the killings, it would intensify the violence. As regards "legitimacy" tests, what right has Gonzalez or the administration to preach legitimacy? Legitimacy is founded not only on an untainted electoral mandate. The administration can earn a little legitimacy by doing its job of protecting the lives of citizens against lawless deaths quads, or dismissing its Rottweiler masquerading as a justice secretary.

The Vice President replies

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN RESPONSE TO THE COLUMN ON THE CONCERNS of families being resettled from around the railroad tracks to make way for the NorthRail and SouthRail projects, Vice President Noli de Castro has written to clarify some issues raised, particularly the complaints of the relocated families regarding the resettlement sites.

First, he says he has "not ceased looking for solutions to address the difficulties confronting the affected families." De Castro, who as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) has overall responsibility for the resettlement efforts, says he has been holding dialogues with all the concerned sectors, including the beneficiaries. According to him, the result of all these talks is an agreement "to utilize a beneficiary-led approach and to adopt in-city resettlement, whenever feasible."

But the resettled families in Manila, he said, had to be brought to Cabuyao, Laguna, (the focus of much of the complaints for its alleged state of unpreparedness) because in-city resettlement was not feasible and would be too expensive for the government.

"Our relocation site in Cabuyao was completed two years ago to accommodate 8,000 families from SouthRail," writes De Castro. "We have 20 classrooms available now. An additional 70 classrooms will be completed before the end of the year. We are implementing livelihood opportunities in the community in coordination with concerned agencies and private sector organizations."

De Castro admits that "there will be difficulties attendant to the relocation," so perhaps the complaints of the relocatees are not all that unreasonable. But, he says, "I have time and again explained the concept of incremental development which we have successfully adopted for our relocatees in the NorthRail. Under this approach, we provided the standard entitlements (serviced lot and home material loan) and basic facilities to the relocatees immediately and introduced improvements on incremental basis."

* * *

PERHAPS the problem lies in the differing perceptions of "incremental development." The relocated families have complained that to make them agree to have their houses demolished and be transferred to other sites, government representatives promised minimal inconvenience after they finally moved into their new settlements. Instead, they find the sites so remote they need to spend huge amounts for transportation just to be able to earn a living. In addition, they find minimal development, unsafe water supply, unreliable or no electricity supply, and inadequate classrooms.

"Incremental" may mean gradual and steady improvement to the Vice President, but the residents may well see the efforts of government to improve their sites as too slow, too little and even too late.

In a report submitted to De Castro in response to the letter of Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales regarding the plight of the relocated families, National Housing Authority General Manager Federico Laxa said they are "addressing these problems to the best of our capability, based on our available resources."

While the urban poor groups say only 70 percent of 20,000 families have been able to build their new homes, with only 50 percent occupying the structures, Laxa claims that NHA records show all the beneficiaries have their allocated lots and are in fact occupying them. As to the claim that 200 families are still living in tents a year after their eviction, the NHA says these families already have their lot allocations.

* * *

ON THE ISSUE of electrical connections, Laxa said Meralco policy requires 70 percent lot occupancy before installation of individual connections. But the NHA has negotiated with Meralco to relax this policy.

"NHA never promised free electricity," Laxa clarifies, "although it subsidized the unpaid power consumption for all sites, for a limited period only."

As for the quality of the water, which the cardinal described in his letter as "(tasting) and smelling bad," with the residents suffering health complications like stomachache and diarrhea, Laxa says samples of the water were tested by the Department of Health and found to be safe, particularly in Northville 8, where most of the complaints came from. In Southville, Cabuyao, Laxa admits that while water tests "conforms with Philippine national standards for drinking water," coliform bacteria were detected and so "boiling is advised for the meantime." Meanwhile, "one water tank is already energized and another is expected to be completed by (the end of next month), thus reducing dependence on the shallow well-drawn water."

To address the lack of classrooms for the children in the distant relocation sites, Laxa says "interim solutions" are being undertaken, such as conversion and use of existing community buildings and facilities as alternative classrooms; using multi-purpose halls, health centers and basketball courts as temporary classrooms; and construction of additional school buildings.

* * *

A MAIN issue being raised by the urban poor groups is their preference for "in-city resettlement," that is, new sites that are as close as possible to their places of work, occupation and education. The Urban Poor Associates say they have even identified a feasible site for the relocated families in Taguig, which would certainly be preferable to the remote sites in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Laxa and De Castro, however, say that while in-city relocation is preferred, "in areas where there are no available sites, other resettlement sites have to be considered, provided it is within the parameters of the law."

Laxa also clarified that "it is not NHA's policy to threaten or give false representations to affected families."

Sexy culture

WORLD VIEW

Arne Jernelöv

WHY IS THERE CULTURE? WHAT MOTIVATES people to write poems, paint, or sing? Most people engaged in these activities would respond with answers like, "because I like to," or "because it fulfills me," or "I feel obliged not to waste my talent." They tend to believe that culture reflects the existence of a soul type, or that it's an expression of humans' intelligence and creativity.

Natural science, as so often, has a more mundane answer, one that has to do with natural selection. In his seminal work on evolution, "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life," Charles Darwin used the much-cited expression "survival of the fittest." Most people find it easy to understand that being especially strong or fast, or able to withstand hunger, heat or cold, can increase the chances of survival. Intelligence also falls into that category. But to squeeze cultural excellence into the group of characteristics defining "the fittest" is not so easy and requires some leap of faith.

In his later work, Darwin introduced another selection criterion that may be just as important, but which has received much less attention: mating preference, or sexual selection. His reason for doing so was to explain male peacocks' obviously hindering tail feathers and male lions' apparently useless manes. These characteristics would reduce rather than enhance the bearer's chances of survival, but obviously they prevailed in generation after generation. Thus, Darwin argued, they must increase the probability of more offspring by making the males more attractive to female mates.

As Darwin did not believe that pure aesthetics would guide female peacocks and lions in their choice of mating partners, he had to find a rational reason for females' preference for males with hindering characteristics. The very fact, he reasoned, that these features make life harder signals to prospective partners that individuals who can do reasonably well with them have an especially good genetic set-up and are thus likely to produce strong offspring. They should therefore be preferred mates.

Evolutionary biologists have since taken the concept further. If someone can do difficult things, not only carrying peacock tail feathers or a long dark lion mane, but also things that require much practice without contributing to physical fitness and survival, and yet stay alive, that individual must have especially good genes. They are therefore sexually attractive.

Culture—at least the culture we are proud of and don't sneer at—is highly elitist. We admire the best, and only the best, according to some cultural and time-dependent standard. It does not help much to sing pop songs or opera arias in the bathroom. You must be able to draw a listening and cheering crowd to qualify for the elite.

Likewise, the amateur painter does not increase her or his attractiveness much compared to a Van Gogh or a Picasso.

The same goes for writers. A vanity press autobiography does not bring you to the top. For that, you have to be a Nobel laureate or at least the author of a couple of well regarded books.

The bottom line is that while many are called, few are chosen. Reaching the top requires not only talent and luck, but also a lot of practices—that is, time wasted from the point of view of survival.

Sport is in this respect also a form of culture, albeit one that is often sneered at by those engaged in pursuits like classical music or serious literature. Most sports certainly contribute to physical fitness—as do some other expressions of culture, such as ballet—but what we admire in a player who can do extraordinary things with a ball is a technique that is utterly useless outside the playing field and has taken thousands of hours of practice to bring to perfection.

Here, of course, it's only the best that become local or national heroes. To be a devoted football or basketball player in the lowest series brings ridicule rather than fame. It must be hard and require enormous effort to acquire the unique skills that mark the superstar and earn societies' respect and admiration.

Following this reasoning, what makes the poet, the painter and the singer attractive is uselessness combined with the difficulty of their activity. The harder and more futile the activity, the better and more sexually attractive is the performer.

Naturally, self-awareness of this underlying wish to be sexually attractive is not required. The mechanism works all the same. The poet, painter and singer may think they do what they do for more high-minded reasons, but scientists know otherwise.

Hey, science is hard, too! But, in line with the logic of natural selection, to become sexually attractive, the scientist only has to make sure that the results of his or her work are useless.

Project Syndicate

Arne Jernelöv is professor of Environmental Biochemistry and former director of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna, and a United Nations expert on environmental catastrophes.

Animals, humans

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHAT'S YOUR DOG TRYING TO TELL YOU AS IT GIVES you that adoring look, tail wagging away? Does she really love you for you, or for your doggie treats? Or does she simply accommodate you as an alpha dog, the leader of the pack?

And your cat? As he purrs away, rubbing himself against your leg, is he expressing affection for you, or is he just marking you, telling the world you're his, or at least part of his territory?

The philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein famously summarized the dilemma, and I paraphrase: If lions could speak, we still wouldn't be able to understand them.

Now comes an extraordinary animal behaviorist, Temple Grandin, to help translate with a book entitled, well, "Animals in Translation." She's so good she makes her living working as a consultant advising governments and private businesses on how to slaughter animals more humanely. Vegetarians and animal rights groups will of course say that "humane slaughter" is an oxymoron, but Grandin says that cows, pigs, sheep and other food animals are there only because we domesticate and breed them to be eaten, so we have to assume the responsibility as well for ensuring a "happy death" for them.

Reading minds

Whether you agree with that argument or not, Grandin does present a wealth of information that isn't limited to humane slaughter.

I read the book initially as a veterinarian, picking up quite a few new lessons on handling animals. Sadly, vet schools offer minimal training around animal behavior. One reason, and Grandin emphasizes this in her book, is that relatively little research has been done in this field compared to studies in human psychology. Many scientists will even question whether there's anything worth studying in animals, presuming that their behavior is mechanical, driven by software wired into the brain. Many scientists, too, will argue that animals don't think, or feel and really, they're just inferior to humans.

Grandin questions these assumptions, and to support her many hypotheses about animals, she cites the growing number of studies—in laboratories as well as out there in the wild, in nature—that show animal behavior can be even more complicated than that of humans.

Grandin draws from many insights from her own work and experiences, much of them in slaughterhouses. She says that if we humans are to read animal minds, we have to put ourselves, literally, in their position. She found herself crouching lower to ground level, to understand what animals see at that level, as they're being led into pens. For example, puddles of water seem to spook many farm animals, making them freeze in their tracks. Frustrated animal handlers will shout at the animals, prod them, all to no avail, and yet totally oblivious to a simple solution: mopping up the water.

Cows also get nervous seeing anything fluttering in the wind, especially if it's colored yellow. And, closer to our homes, many of us know that if we run into a nervous, hostile dog, the worst thing is to run because abrupt movements trigger them to chase after us—and possibly attack.

Good dog, bad dog

But animals can be "rewired" so they don't act on instinct alone. A puppy raised with kittens will coexist peacefully with cats. Some of this is common sense: I've written about how dogs raised with constant close and friendly contact with humans will not attack and bite, but they still make good watchdogs because instinctively, they will bark if someone enters their territory. Now if you confine them in a cage or keep them chained, you over-emphasize their territoriality and they could attack even their owners.

Grandin emphasizes how animal learning is very much tied to contexts. Dogs learn not to chase after the children at home, even if they run around. But you also have to train them to "respect" other children who visit, and also to behave when they're out in the streets. It's a bit like theater, with different settings, different casts.

Grandin describes differences across animal species. Many animal species work mainly on fear, but dogs have co-evolved with us so closely that they're really almost "social" in a human sense, which is why when you train them, even verbal praise goes a long way. They don't really "understand" what "good dog" means but they're doing their own translation as well, more or less sensing that the tone of your voice in "good dog" means you approve of what they just did . . . . unlike the "bad dog" you give when they do something bad.

Different?

There's so much more in Grandin's book; in fact, if you're in a hurry, I suggest you go to the last part first, with a concise "Behavior and Training Troubleshooting Guide." But if you have the time and the interest, do go through the whole book and marvel with the knowledge that Grandin is autistic.

She reminds us constantly about this, and says that it is her autism that makes her so good as an animal behaviorist. Autistics think more often in visual images than in abstract language, and Grandin says this is probably the way animals function as well.

This explains why autistics can become so fixated—with the electric fan, for example, or particular sounds. A friend of mine told me recently her autistic brother has to have a radio or television on all the time, even if he doesn't actually listen or watch.

These fixations can work to the advantage of autistics. For example, Grandin suggests that non-autistics working on X-ray machines for security checks of luggage will eventually tire, seeing everything as clutter, while autistics will still be able to see through the mess. It's a similar principle that works with security dogs. They're fixated on finding drugs, or weapons, and can do this the whole day.

I'm going to use parts of Grandin's book for my anthropology students as well because the book tells us as much about humans as about animals. Grandin's book helps us to come to terms with how much we're wired, wanting to run when we see a growling dog for example; on the other hand, we also realize how we (and animals) can also work on different "circuits," how we can be rewired.

Grandin also reminds me of the very common misconception that we're sitting on the top of the evolutionary scale. We like to think our brains evolved to make us reflective and wise, but this has not been without trade-offs: being "conscious" and "rational" also means we also have to deal with more anxieties and apprehensions. Ironically, it is this rationality that sometimes drives us to lash out in fear or in anger, even as we claim to be civil and civilized. As we learn more about animals and their worlds, we just might realize that what we often contemptuously call the "animal" in us might actually be all too uniquely human.

Vet conference

The Veterinary Practitioners Association of the Philippines (VPAP) will hold its annual convention at the Wack Wack Country Club on June 1 and 2. Call the VPAP office at 9266603 and 4103809 for more information, or go directly to Wack Wack for on-site registration.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DILG through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites service contractors to apply for eligibility and to Bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	Provision of Janitorial and Sanitation Services for the Calendar Year 2006 for the Department of the Interior and Local Government located at A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 3,500,000.00
Contract Duration	August 1 – December 31, 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in a similar undertaking for at least five years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Criteria for the eligibility check of the prospective bidders, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification and all matters relevant to this procurement shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184 (The Government Procurement Reform Act) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents	- June 1 - 14, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	- June 23, 2006
Submission/Opening/Evaluation of Bids	- June 28, 2006
Post qualification	- July 3-17, 2006
Notice of Award	- July 21, 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos **(Php 3, 500.00)** only to the DILG Cashier.

The complete set of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents may be obtained at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) – Secretariat c/o Mr. Reynaldo Bungubung, BAC Secretariat Head (Telephone No. 9266256). Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed in a separate and marked sealed envelope addressed to ASEC AUSTERE A. PANADERO, Bids and Awards Committee, Chairman, c/o BAC-Secretariat and dropped in the bid box located at the OSEC Conference Room, 10th Floor A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline of Submission and receipt of Eligibility, Technical and Financial requirements shall be on June 28, 2006 at the OSEC Conference Room.

The DILG reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to DILG or waive any defect or informality therein. Further, the DILG assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

AUSTERE A. PANADERO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 31 & June 7, 2006)

Courage, 20, to go on fighting corruption

LETTERS

LAST MAY 12, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE re-filed its fabricated case of rebellion against the Batasan 5 and other leaders of progressive organizations. As if it would help prop up their already defeated arguments, the DOJ prosecutors included in their conspiracy theory several legal democratic people's organizations, among them, Gabriela, the League of Filipino Students and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) in their list of communist fronts.

For Courage, being labeled anew as a communist front by the Arroyo administration at this time is not a surprise. This May, Courage, the forerunner of genuine public sector unionism in our country, celebrated its 20th founding anniversary. Upon its establishment in 1986, Courage was labeled by the Aquino and Ramos administrations as a Left-leaning group and a member of the National Democratic Front, to scare off the employees and silence the growing opposition against their anti-employees and anti-people policies. Courage's unprecedented growth through the years is a testimony that the "Red scare" tactic miserably failed. Thanks to its more than 200 unions and 300,000 members nationwide, Courage can now claim it's the biggest and most credible vanguard of government employees' interests.

This time around, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and the Arroyo administration, rehashed the old "CPP front organizations" line in the "Know Your Enemy" briefing paper of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The document kicked off the Arroyo administration's most brutal and systematic assault on progressive people's organizations, which continues to this day, without any sign of abating. And to justify its immoral, illegal and "Marcosian" tactics, the Arroyo administration labels anybody who does not agree with its actions as a destabilizer or coup plotter.

Courage's only "sin" is that it asked for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation. Courage maintains that the bureaucracy cannot serve the people well if government decision-makers face serious allegations of graft and their mandate is under question.

In maligning Courage, Gonzalez in effect assails its programs against graft and corruption, and against misgovernance—programs that government employees have been solidly supporting for two decades now.

We are proud to be part of this league of patriotic organizations. Our fellow "fronts" have burgeoning memberships and prestigious reputations, chiefly because they continue to promote and defend the people's rights and welfare. That we have been tagged as the government's chief critic is an achievement and proves Courage's service to the people. If we must face persecution, we shall engage Gonzalez and the Arroyo administration willfully and vigorously with our treasured badge of courage.

—FERDINAND R. GAITE,
national president,
Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), 9A K-F Street, Kamuning, QC

False warnings about not being 'cut'

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL L. TAN for another excellent column on male circumcision. ("Summer's rituals," PDI, 5/17/06)

We should treat with great caution every claim that circumcision protects people against this or that disease, because time after time it has been found to be quite useless.

There is a widely reported claim that circumcision protects women against HIV. The study on which that claim was based did not actually reach statistical significance. In the latest study of men in South Africa, the men who were cut were given safe-sex warnings that the men "left intact" were not given.

Another study was trumpeted because none of the cut men in it caught HIV. Not mentioned was that one-third of the cut men recruited for the study couldn't be used because they already had HIV.

Men who are *supot* should hold their heads up high. They will enjoy sex more and they will be better lovers.

—HUGH YOUNG,
ugh@buzz.net.nz

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Scary signals

PRONOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS from Malacañang send shivers down my spine. It all started with "I will not run for the presidency in 2004." It was followed by the infamous "I am sorry."

Not to be outdone, administration congressmen did their part during the impeachment proceedings and turned the House of Representatives into a cockpit. Local officials came up with their own act and sang hosannas to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—for obvious reasons.

Military and police officials also did their part. AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga declared: "Civil war (Oplan Hackle) was prevented." The police clamped down on Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Dinky Soliman and The Daily Tribune, then assured the public they were merely being protected from danger. PNP Director Vidal Querol said that Randy David was arrested not because of 1017 but because of Batas Pambansa 880. He surely sounded as if he had never heard of the Bill of Rights.

Right after Lent, GMA rallied the people: "Let us unite for God and country." She surely has a funny way of showing her passion for drama. How can she rally the people behind her when her own credibility is in a shambles? We need a leader whom we can be proud of. A leader to emulate.

GMA and company's main objective is—to borrow the words of a former UP dean of Law—"to legitimize the tainted mandate of GMA." Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, when asked about Charter change, said: "Let us have reform and change for God and country and not for Gloria and company."

As expected, the Mayuga Report is turning out to be a doctored document. The biggest joke of course is the "people's initiative." Speaker Jose de Venecia and its other proponents are dancing to the tune of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

Gone are the days of Quezon, Laurel, Recto, Roxas, Quirino, Romulo, Tañada, Diokno and their ilk, whose eloquence, intellect and remarkable statesmanship earned them and for us the respect of the community of nations. Where are the managerial expertise of Virata, Fernandez, Laya, Melchor, Azcuna, Tanco, Monsod, Henares and other technocrats?

How long are we going to contend with the likes of Bunye, Defensor, Gonzalez, Ermita, Teves, Saludo and, now, Puno who do nothing but mouth paeans to GMA and Don Miguel?

But what can we do? This is the Year of the Dog.

May God save our country from dogs.

—ANTONIO P. SANTOS,
Georgetown,
Barangay Rizal, Santiago City

Who would
have imagined that
hypertensive patients
can live longer and
healthier lives in the future
by medicating today?
We did.
Pfizer breakthroughs
and innovations are
happening everyday.
Dapat Sulit.
Pfizer
ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT PFIZER'S SULIT MEDICINES TODAY.

Even one who suffers from a serious health condition can now hope to surpass the normal life expectancy. Pfizer's life-changing breakthroughs in medical research have produced medicines which help prevent and treat ailments like hypertension, arthritis, bad cholesterol, and severe infections. Salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor, at sa mga gamot na [illegible] the hope of a better, stronger, and longer life for you and your loved ones can happen. [illegible]

Dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

GMA orders rehab of endangered buildings

From page A1

The President gave the order to the NDCC during a Cabinet meeting yesterday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told reporters.

The Task Force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways had identified the 60 defective buildings after inspecting a total of 1,983 buildings in Metro Manila last month.

The task force was formed last year following an earthquake that devastated Pakistan. It is tasked with determining the condition of public buildings and bridges and with recommending measures to improve them so they would have a better chance of withstanding earthquakes.

Cruz, the NDCC chair, said the President wanted to give immediate attention to the schools on the list, particularly the six schools said to be in a critical state.

"She said these schools should be retrofitted before school children are allowed to come in," he said.

The defense secretary said the repairs could be done before classes open in June.

He said he would ask Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to have the local government shoulder the cost of repairing the buildings in the city on the list.

Cruz also said Ms Arroyo had reiterated the need for the holding of earthquake drills in schools nationwide. The drills will be conducted a week after the opening of classes.

Alarm bells

In Manila, earthquake and alarm bells will likely be ringing in all elementary and high schools when classes open on Monday amid fears that the Philippines will likely be hit by a strong quake similar to that which jolted Indonesia on Saturday.

Mayor Lito Atienza has instructed school officials to conduct the drills.

"We have to keep our people, especially the young ones, aware of what they should do during these times," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

He said drills would also be conducted in local government offices.

During the drills, the students will be told to hide under tables and in corners, and to evacuate in an orderly manner to open areas. They will also be taught basic fire drills, the mayor said.

Atienza said inspections would establish whether buildings were made of substandard materials.

"We are living in a country located on an earthquake belt. We do not want to experience the same devastation that happened in Indonesia," Atienza said. The 6.3-magnitude quake in Java, Indonesia, killed more than 5,000 people.

The Philippines, just like Indonesia, sits on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

About five quakes hit the country every day, but few, if any, are felt.

Araullo High School

The Task Force on Building Inspection said at least three schools (Araullo High School, Manila High School and Manuel A. Roxas High School) and two sports facilities (Quirino Grandstand and Rizal Memorial Sports Complex) in Manila needed urgent detailed evaluation.

"We have already improved the condition of most of these establishments but, nevertheless, we welcome the warning given to us by the DPWH. Rest assured that we're taking the necessary actions," Atienza said.

Abandoned buildings

However, the mayor called on the DPWH and the owners of abandoned private buildings to demolish the structures because these posed a danger to the public.

He cited the Veteran's Bank Building in the Port Area, the Royal Hotel on Carlos Palanca Street and the Luneta Hotel on T.M. Kalaw Avenue, among other buildings.

"These are abandoned buildings," Atienza said. "Uninhabited structures tend to become brittle as the years pass, and this is dangerous."

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the administrators of other buildings on the list prepared by the task force would be asked to rehabilitate their structures.

INVOKING THE DIVINE, President Arroyo leads the prayers before the start of the Cabinet-Neda meeting at the Palace on Tuesday. LYN RILLON

Gloria loses temper with DepEd head

From page A1

discrepancy is too big," Ms Arroyo told Hidalgo.

Hidalgo said she used the pupil-classroom ratio of 45 to 1 in her report. This prompted the President to raise her voice as she told the acting education secretary that they had previously agreed to use the ratio of 100 to 1.

"So what is the shortage now if we use what was agreed on last year?" Ms Arroyo asked.

"We only have a few shortages right now," Hidalgo replied.

"Exactly, exactly. I mean we have to present our accomplishments on that ... we've always been attacked every year for the shortages... [but] we have been meeting the shortage," Ms Arroyo said.

Media asked to leave

Hidalgo agreed that the government was meeting the classroom shortage but Ms Arroyo quipped: "That's not what it appears here."

At this point, the President called for discussions to be deferred "until you come up with where are the [classroom] shortages even with two shifts."

The President asked the media to leave the room. The press had been invited to watch Hidalgo's presentation.

Hidalgo then left the Cabinet meeting and went back to her office to "correct some of the points raised by the President," according to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

Defensor said Ms Arroyo insisted on using the pupil-classroom ratio of 100 to 1 because this was a directive she gave last year in response to the problem of classroom shortages.

"Because if you peg the ratio at 45 to 1, you will miss the more critical areas where you will need a ratio of 100 to 1," he said.

My mistake

Hidalgo later held a news conference and told reporters she had made an "error" in her presentation—there was no shortage of classrooms after all.

She said she made a mistake when she referred to 6,832 as the number of classroom shortages, when in fact, this was the number of schools the government was building this year.

The ideal ratio would be one classroom for every 45 pupils, Hidalgo said. This was why the government continued to build more classrooms.

There would be 2,600 classrooms ready by June and another 1,000 by September, she said, adding that "the extra bulk would be addressed by using the double single session scheme."

Is there a shortage?

Asked if there actually was a classroom shortage, Hidalgo said: "Using the double single session, you will be able to have classrooms for all students."

"There is no shortage if you use this particular intervention wherein teachers who have a ratio of 100 to 1 will be divided into two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon," she said.

Hidalgo said there were schools that were "still very congested" but they would be monitored.

She also said the congestion in the public schools was caused by the transfer of students from private schools.

Vouchers

Hidalgo said the President had set aside P500 million for education vouchers which would allow graduates of public elementary schools to enroll in private high schools and would help decongest the public high schools.

Hidalgo acknowledged that Ms Arroyo was "upset."

For her part, the acting education secretary said she "felt sorry for myself."

Asked if the incident could cost her permanent appointment as education secretary, Hidalgo said: "It doesn't matter. What matters is we do what we ought to do now."

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I.

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Multifunction Revenue Meters
(Reference No.: PB060329-EL0046)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of ***Php 20,000,000.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Multifunction Revenue Meters**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Revenue Meters* Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **May 24, 2006 to June 28, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).*** The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 13, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of June 29, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 200,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 300,000.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 500,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 20,000,000.00

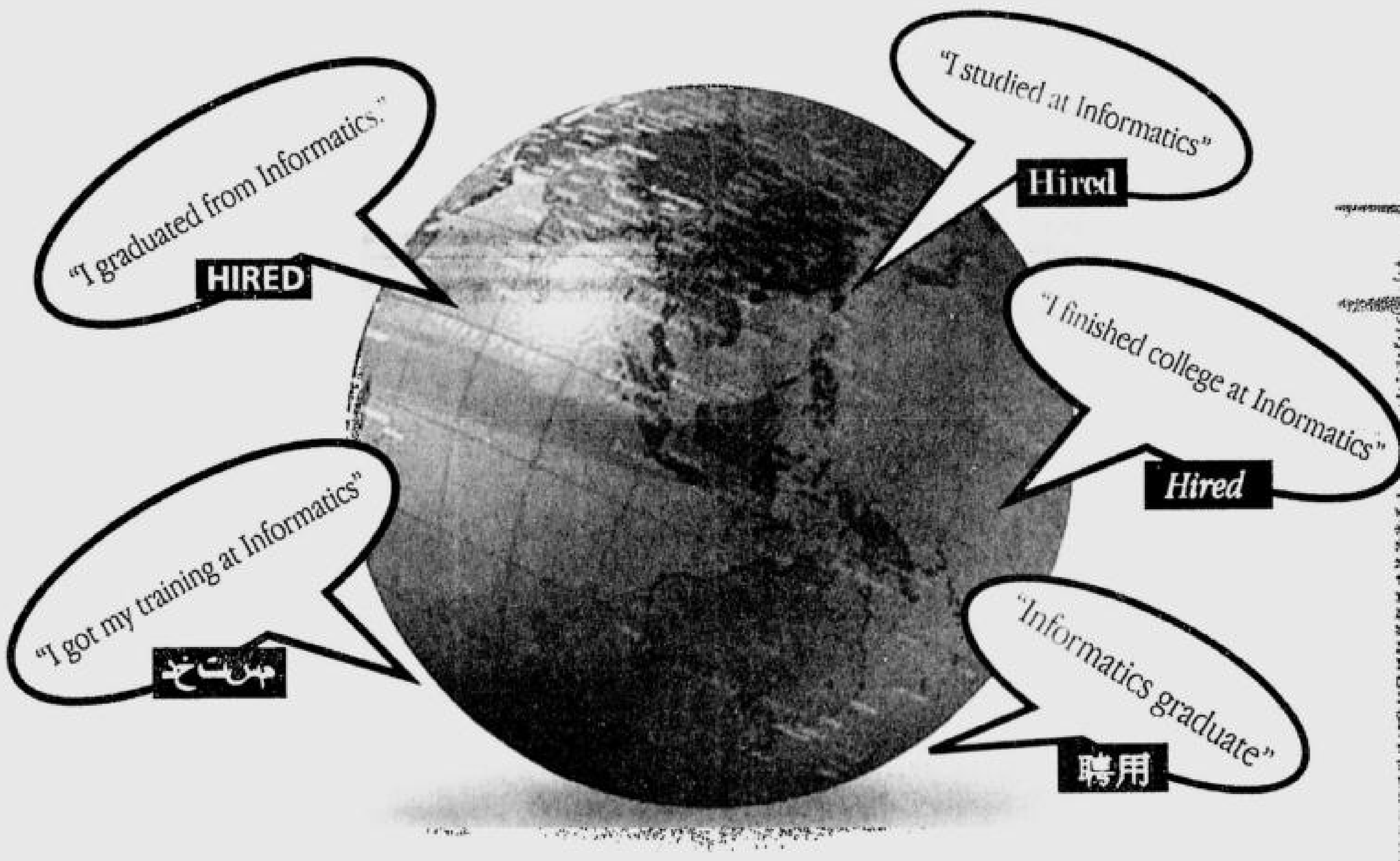
or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **June 29, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 24 & 31, 2006)



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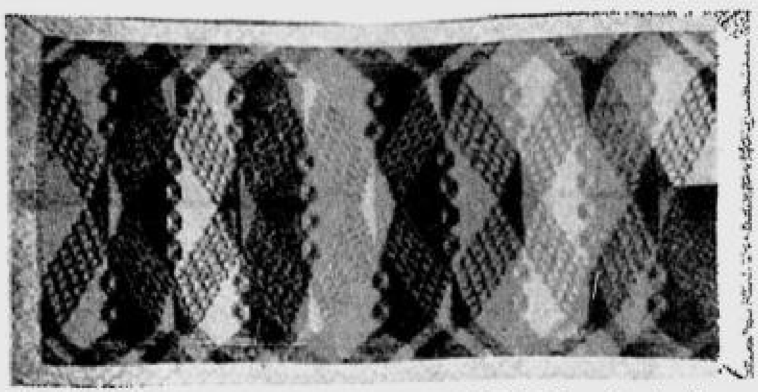
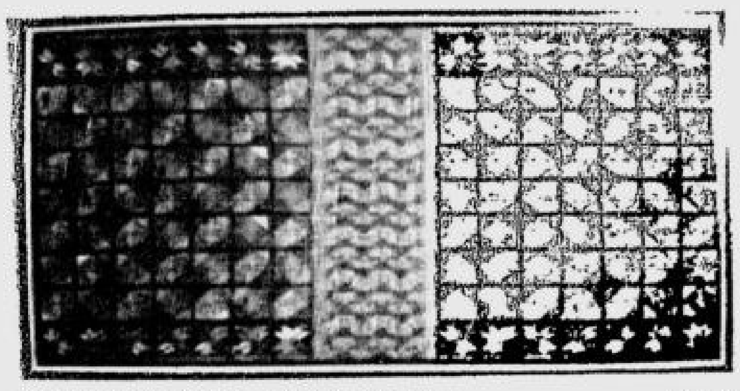
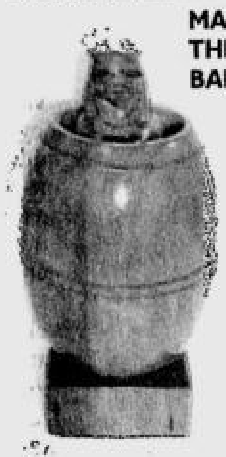


BADJAO MATS: More fascinating than those churned out by our so-called abstractionists.



YAKAN WEAVE: One of the loveliest and the most intricate fabrics to make in all the tribes of Mindanao.

ANCIENT BULUL: The real thing



MAN IN THE BARREL

Heritage disaster: Native craftsmen …

From page A1

In a souvenir shop at the Baguio Public Market, we also found a Micronesian tiki god in rosewood, a block of polished prime hardwood as big as two fists, finely sculpted and being sold for an incredible P35. Again, we were told it was an export overrun.

Is this good or bad? Economically, yes—but culturally, it's questionable.

The craftsman's family is guaranteed income and livelihood, but we rue the day when his great-grandchildren can no longer distinguish—from this assortment of gods and monsters—the true god of their ancestors.

A similar adulteration of culture is happening among the Tagbanua of Palawan. At souvenir shops in Puerto Princesa, you would find *kamagong* figurines of the Tagbanua pregnant woman and the Igorot thin man, being sold side by side. This could only mean that the natives have been forced to create icons, but not their own, to sell to tourists.

PALAWAN WEAVER Rachel Sabanis, 18, uses dyed buri fiber for making a placemat. She earns P23 for every meter she produces of this particular product. LYN RILLON

So now we're bewildered as to which belongs to whom, as we're confronted by a jumble of tribal motifs and ethnic patterns ranging from Mangyan to Cordilleran, even Muslim, in the metal- and woodcraft, beadwork, jewelry and textiles at any such shop.

The rainmaker, a Palawan cultural legacy, has been so bastardized and mass-produced for tourists that this hieratic bamboo instrument must have already lost its charm with the gods. Perhaps, the gods won't even bother to send rain to the parched land.

To top it all, native craftsmen are being robbed blind by traders. A carved mandala table of rosewood you can get for P800 in a woodcraft factory in Ifugao, can soar to over P7,000 in a trade fair in Metro Manila.

A walking cane of dark polished hardwood, copper-tipped, etched with ethnic motifs and inlaid with mother-of-pearl, which subcontracting craftsmen give to middlemen for P100, is being sold for P250 at souvenir shops in Puerto Princesa, and about P3,000 in sporting-goods stores in Metro Manila.

And these traders have the gumption to market the handiwork at prohibitive prices by invoking the intricacy of their make and the difficulties the craftsmen went through to produce them.

Synthetic dyes, yarns

Meanwhile, in Basilan, the Yakans are being displaced by intermittent conflicts between the military and insurgents. Many of this island's natives have fled to Zamboanga City across the strait, bringing their culture along.

The Yakan weave is one of the loveliest, most intricate and most difficult to make fabrics in all the tribes of Mindanao. With its vibrant colors and complex patterns, it is also one of the most expensive. The weavers get their inspiration from their natural surroundings such as the rainbow, leaves, fish, but most especially, the skin of the python.

Zamboanga's local government has put up a Yakan Village in the city's outskirts where dislocated aborigines can continue working on their looms and keep stalls to display their wares to tourists.

They used to produce their weave from abaca and pineapple fibers, using brilliant dyes from the juices of jungle plants (all organic raw materials). But market demand has made it necessary for them to use synthetic dyes and yarns. Compare the old and new fabrics and you'd readily notice the difference by feel and sight.

So it's not just the piña of Aklan or the *hablon* of Iloilo. The bleak plight of native weavers is general in all the land. And we're killing their art softly with either technology, commercialism and tourism, or by sheer disinterest and neglect.

Badjao mats

Zamboanga City has also a Badjao Village, where these gypsies of the sea are now landlocked. During normal times, with nothing to do while their houseboats drift at sea, most Badjao women spend hours weaving mats out of *pandan* or the seaweed *agar-agar*.

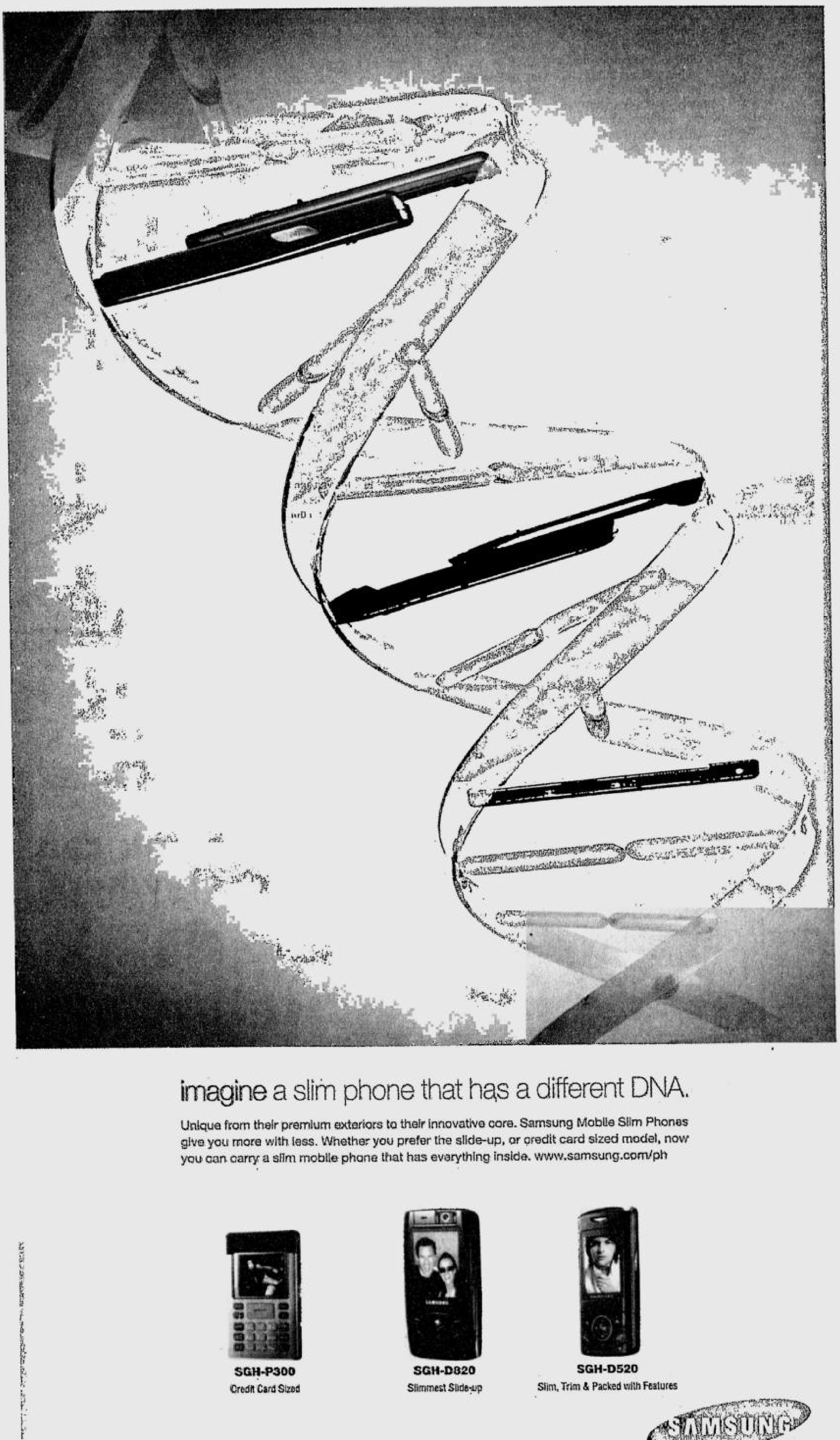
Such beautiful mats we haven't seen except maybe those from Basey, Samar. Both are extravagantly designed and sumptuously colored, with the obvious difference that Samar mats are filled with figures while Badjao mats are pure abstraction. And Samar mats are finer, softer, more delicate, as they're woven from the swamp grass *tikog*.

Mass-produced

We have also visited the Badjao Village in Bongao in Tawi-Tawi, and we notice a difference in design with those of Zamboanga, though both are woven by Badjao. The Zamboanga mats look mass-produced for tourists, mere patterns of squares and stripes with two or three hues to a piece. The Bongao mats appear dreamed up, one of a kind, aswirl with colors, curves, zigzags, straight lines and unleashed imagination.

In Bongao, the seafaring people's craft is more expensive but we bought our mats there and never haggled. You can have these mats framed and displayed in the *sala* (living room), and we guarantee they're more fascinating (sorry!) than those churned out by many of our so-called abstractionists.

We are surrounded by treasures but we take them for granted and we're losing them soon. It may be imperceptible, but this slow annihilation of culture is real.



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CBCP head asks GMA: Protect Ati folk

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE PRESIDENT OF THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the eviction of the Ati community on Boracay Island.

In a one-page letter dated May 15, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo called the President's attention to continued threats to remove the Atis from their community in Sitio Bolabog in Barangay Balabag, one of three villages of the island-resort.

Lagdameo said the Atis are still in danger of being evicted despite the ruling of the Regional Hearing Office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) ordering a permanent injunction against claimants of the lands that the Atis occupy.

"Indeed, such judgment was a cause for jubilation not just for the Atis but also for other indigenous cultural communities in the country as well as (indigenous people) workers and advocates. However, our joy was short-lived by reports … that the Atis are still in danger of losing their homes despite said judgment," said Lagdameo.

Citing the reports from church workers staying with the Atis, Lagdameo said the Atis have complained that they have no pathway to their homes due to the construction of a concrete fence in their village.

The Atis are also being individually convinced with payment offers to leave the village while structures are being constructed on the lots they occupy, the prelate said.

"In effect, the situation that the Atis cannot freely and conveniently move in and out of their homes is making a mockery of the judgment rendered by the Regional Hearing Office," said Lagdameo.

In its decision released on April 29 by NCIP hearing officer Sulpicio Gamosa Jr., the NCIP barred the eviction of the indigenous people, stressing that the Atis "cannot be summarily relocated without their free, prior and informed consent, at least until their petitions for (certificate of ancestral domain title or CADT) are still pending with the NCIP."

The permanent injunction was issued against holders of tax declarations claiming ownership of the lands the Atis occupy.

The Atis have a pending application for the issuance of a CADT claiming they are the first inhabitants of the 1,032-hectare island-resort. It was filed on Feb. 23, 2000.

The community has been threatened of eviction from the one-hectare land they are occupying at the northern end of the island. The lots are being claimed by Aniceto Yap, brother of provincial member Jose Yap, and the family of Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores.

The President last year promised the Ati leaders that they will not be evicted on the island but will be relocated to one-hectare lot within the 80-hectare Eco-Tourism Village on the island but the transfer has not been implemented.

"…May we request Your Excellency's kind and immediate attention to this matter, taking into account the rights of the indigenous peoples are provided by Republic Act 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra)," said Lagdameo.

Woman driver raises eyebrows in tough, steep route

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

EDOC in her van.
DELMAR CARIÑO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—IT takes a lot of muscles, grit and experience for drivers to conquer Mt. Trail, Northern Luzon's most challenging 84-km road that passes through steep mountains from here to Buguias town.

That's why when Gladys Edoc, 28, decided in March to become a driver of a van plying the La Trinidad-Buguias-La Trinidad route, many male drivers raised eyebrows.

They cannot be blamed.

Standing five feet and an inch and weighing only 120 lbs., Edoc looked so frail to be able to tow 11 passengers in her van through Mt. Trail's dangerous and devious slopes.

Today, however, Edoc has logged more than 2,000 km in her more than 10 trips along Mt. Trail, making her Benguet's first woman driver for commuter vans.

"We were quite reluctant to accept her in our association since she is a woman," said Menard Mauricio, president of the Abatan-La Trinidad-Baguio Van Operators and Drivers Association (ALTBVODA).

"But she was persistent and tough. A male driver went with her during her first trip and she proved she could do it," he said.

Edoc is now one of ALTBVODA's members driving 100 vans, 50 of which travel daily along Mt. Trail, now known as Halsema Highway, together with other vans from two other associations.

Over the years, vans have competed and replaced regular buses in the province's transport industry.

Of all jobs, why driving?

Edoc's reply was crisp. She wanted to prove that driving was not solely a man's domain and that she needed to earn to finish her nursing course.

"I have been challenged by men who drive along the mountains. I wanted to be one of them," she said.

But besides taking the challenge, Edoc, is determined to become a nurse someday and go abroad.

She is a part time third year student of a nursing school in Urdaneta City.

She finished a management course at the St. Louis University in Baguio City in 2002 but she landed low paying jobs.

This summer, she saw to it that she would master the long and circuitous Halsema Highway, which is normally traveled a little over two hours from this capital town.

Edoc, though, is no stranger on the road. She learned how to drive well when she was 13, courtesy of her father, uncles and eldest brother, Allan.

She was allowed then to hold the steering wheel of an old jeep and an Isuzu Elf truck, but only in short distances.

When she turned 18 in 1995, she immediately applied for a student driver's license.

Edoc is fourth in a family of five. Her parents, Galbones and Leonora, are farmers and natives of Buguias.

Edoc drives her family's 11-seat van and earns P800 per trip. She takes at least two to three trips a week to Buguias.

But when her turn at the loading area here would still be two or three days away, she would accept chartered trips outside Benguet, earning from P1,500 to P5,000 depending on the distance.

"I have made trips to Subic, La Union and Pangasinan. I have yet to try Metro Manila though," she said.

Board Member Sario Copas, a native of Buguias, said it is his first time to hear about a woman driver plying the Mt. Trail. "That would be a record," he said.

Ernest Dangwa, manager of Dangwa-Pine Tree Transportation Co., said he had heard about a woman truck driver many years ago but not like Edoc who ferries passengers.

Edoc's driving has caught the attention of the airwaves too.

Broadcaster Dominador Dongla keeps mentioning Edoc's name in his "Boses Ti Farmers" (Voice of Farmers) program aired nightly over radio station dzWT, citing her feat as an example of courage and determination.

Edoc recalled her first few trips.

"The passengers were stunned to see me on the driver's seat. Some were hesitant to ride but the barker assured them that I can drive well," she said.

She said for the first 5 km into the trip, passengers would usually watch her every move.

But after she would show how she deftly steered the wheel and time her clutch and gear, "the passengers would sit back and sleep."

ROUNDUP

Lipa's freedom park

LIPA CITY—In compliance with the Supreme Court ruling on the calibrated pre-emptive response policy, the city council has designated the open space between the Lipa City National High School and the Lipa City Youth and Cultural Center in Barangay 2 as Lipa's freedom park for rallies and mass demonstrations. The place has become the usual venue for political parties' rallies in past elections. The High Court ruled on April 20 that local governments should name at least one freedom park within 30 days after the decision, in compliance with the Public Assembly Act.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 gov't troops wounded

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three government troops, including two Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) members, were wounded when suspected New People's Army rebels raided an Army detachment in Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro on Sunday. Police identified the wounded personnel as Cpl. Ronald Castro and Cafgu members Arman Ordenes and Renato Flores. Genio said about 20 NPA members fired at members of the Alpha Co. of the Army's 80th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Casague, Sta. Cruz at about 11:30 p.m. He said the government troops repelled the rebels who withdrew to the mountains after a one-hour gunfight.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P2M in hardware hijacked

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Suspected highway robbers hijacked a delivery truck containing P2 million worth of hardware supplies along the national highway in Sta. Rosa City on Sunday. Police said Julio Morante, 45, was driving the truck along the highway in Barangay Dita when a van without license plate blocked its path at about 1 a.m. The suspects got off from the van and ordered Morante and four truck helpers at gunpoint to get off from the truck. The suspects then tied the victims, brought them inside the van, and dumped them in Barangay San Francisco, Biñan, Laguna. Concerned residents helped the victims who immediately reported the hijacking to the police. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

German's death probed

KALAYAAN, Laguna—Police are investigating the sudden death on May 23 of a German national residing in this town with his partner. Authorities said that Heiko Hans D. Puhe, 48, a native of Germany and resident of Purok 6, Barangay San Juan here complained of severe back pains and was gasping for breath and died after a few seconds while waiting for an ambulance. The victim was immediately brought to Funeraria Lim De Mesa for autopsy. Police said they were still pursuing other angles on the victim's death.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindoro braces for typhoons

CITY OF CALAPAN—Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panaligan has requested the Department of Public Works and Highways to expedite the completion of the P66-million Aglubang-Ibulo River Dike before the next typhoon season this July and August, as only 30 percent of the project had been completed as of May 13. Two major flood control projects have yet to be completed, the governor said. Panaligan said 640 meters of the planned 2-km gabion dike was already constructed by the DPWH. He clarified that the P66 million for the project was with the DPWH. He said only P9 million was released as mobilization fund so that construction could start.

Marciano Virola Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Landowners pay tax

DUMAGUETE CITY—Many delinquent landowners in Negros Oriental have settled their tax obligations out of fear that their real estate property, mostly landholdings, will be placed on public auction. Provincial Treasurer Danilo Mendez said many taxpayers have settled their obligations because they did not want their properties to be auctioned off and to be tagged as a tax evader or a delinquent taxpayer. He said several landowners from Pamplona town paid more than P300,000 in real property taxes to the municipal treasurer's office on Tuesday. Mendez said other taxpayers went to his office to pay, after receiving notices. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Journalists to wear black to protest unsolved murders

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—JOURNALISTS WILL today wear black and simultaneously light candles in various parts of the country to condemn the continued killing of journalists and to demand justice for the victims.

Dubbed "Media in Black (MIB)," the protest actions will be lead by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and other media organizations to express outrage at the murder of Palawan broadcaster Fernando "Dong" Batul.

Journalists in Manila will gather at the Boy Scouts Circle along Timog and Morato Streets in Quezon City at 6 p.m. where they will light candles and hold a short program.

In Iloilo City, journalists led by the NUJP will assemble at the grounds of the Iloilo provincial capitol. Similar protest actions are expected to be held in other areas including Baguio, Subic, Lucena, Sorsogon, Albay, Pampanga, Laguna, Bacolod, Tacloban, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Pagadian, Tarlac, Ormoc, Samar, General Santos and Ozamis.

"We say: Enough is enough! Let us cease to be just observers and recorders of the death of democracy. Let us unite and fight back the threats to our lives and liberties," the NUJP said in a statement.

Batul, former vice mayor of Puerto Princesa City and host of a program at radio station dyPR of Radio Mindanao Network, was gunned down on May 22 while on his way to the radio station.

He was the 42nd journalists killed since 2001 when Ms Arroyo came to power and the 79th since 1986, according to the NUJP.

NUJP spokesperson Jose Torres Jr. said the death toll of journalists under the Arroyo administration "has already far outstripped the 34 claimed by the 14-year (Marcos) Dictatorship."

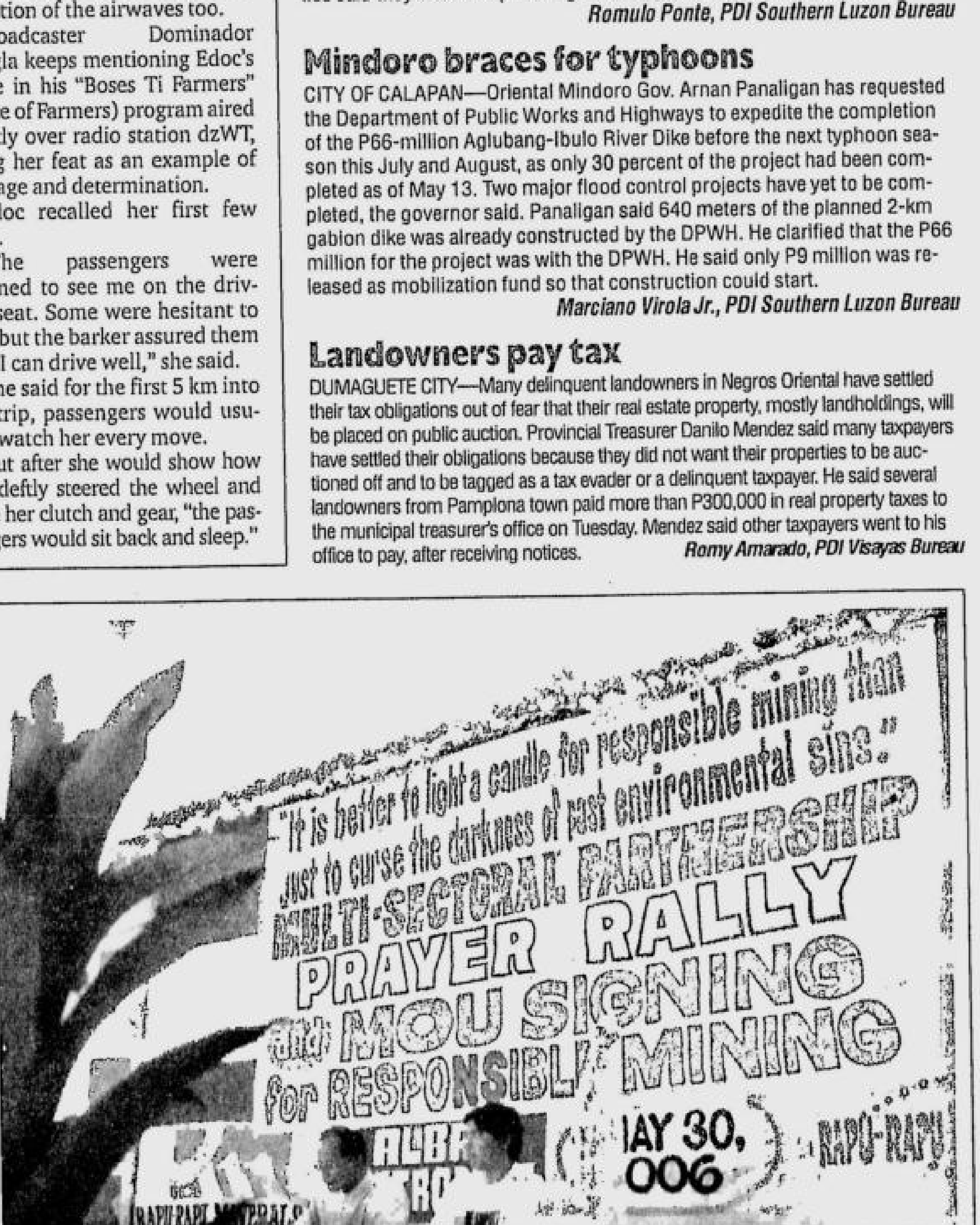
Torres said that of the 79 cases since 1986 when democratic institutions were restored, the courts have resolved only five cases.

"We hold President (Macapagal-Arroyo) and her administration accountable for the murders of our colleagues under her watch and the increasingly brazen manner in which they have been killed," said Torres in a statement.

In separate statements, international media organizations have also condemned the killings and have raised alarm over the worsening situation of journalists in the country.

"Enough is enough. The Philippines government must take strong action to punish those responsible and instill protections for media workers," said Christopher Warren, president of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). IFJ has around 500,000 members worldwide.

"How many more journalists have to die in the Philippines before the president acts to stop the senseless slaughter?" Warren added.


"It is better to light a candle for responsible mining than just to curse the darkness of past environmental sins."
MULTI-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP
PRAYER RALLY
and MOU SIGNING
for RESPONSIBLE MINING
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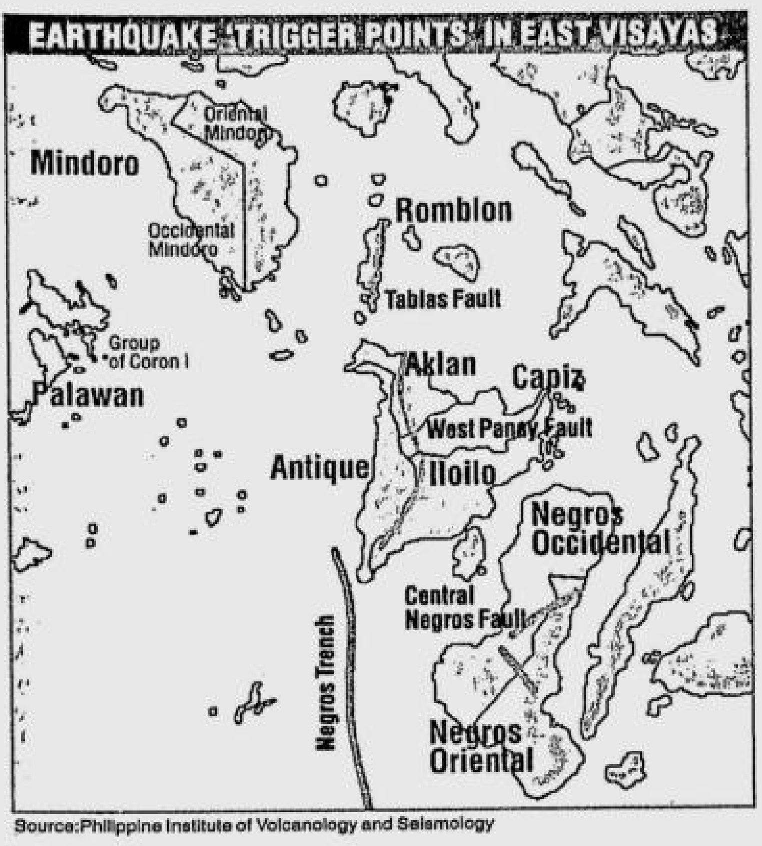
RAPU-RAPU MINERALS

A CALL FOR RESPONSIBILITY
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Fr. Noe de los Santos, rector of the Mater Salutis Seminary in Daraga, Albay is seated beside Julito Sarmiento, a representative of the Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI), during a rally calling for responsible mining in Legazpi City that was attended by at least 5,000 people. LPI was investigated for two mine spills in October last year and is struggling to have its repaired systems tested.

4.2-quake shakes E. Visayas

By Joey A. Gabieta and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau



Source:Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

TACLOBAN CITY—AN EARTHQUAKE SHOOK some parts of Eastern Visayas yesterday morning.

The 4.2-magnitude temblor, of tectonic origin, occurred at 11.37 a.m. with its epicenter located 78 km northeast of Catbalogan, Samar, according to Bobby Cañete of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The quake was felt in Tacloban City at 3-magnitude and in Catbalogan and Calbayog cities, both in Samar, at 4-magnitude.

No damage was reported.

The quake was the second to be felt in the region after the 3.7-magnitude quake on May 10 that resulted in power interruptions in the entire Visayas.

Western Visayas has five major earthquake trigger points and the possibility of earthquakes occurring there was very high, a disaster coordinating official said.

Rosario Cabrera, director of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC), said the major earthquake generators in the region are the Negros Trench, West Panay Fault, Central Negros Fault, the zone of collision between the islands of Palawan and Mindoro, and the Tablas Fault.

"The possibility of having tremors in Western Visayas is high given the presence of these faults," she said.

The 6.3-magnitude earthquake that hit Indonesia and left over 5,000 people dead should be a wake-up call for all Filipinos, according to another disaster coordinating official.

The Philippines lies in the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire that is prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Priscilla Duque, assistant civil defense executive officer and chief of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) training division, was in Bacolod City for the start of the Medical First Responder Course of the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response.

The event is being conducted by the Amity Public Safety Academy (Apsa) at the Panaad Park and Stadium.

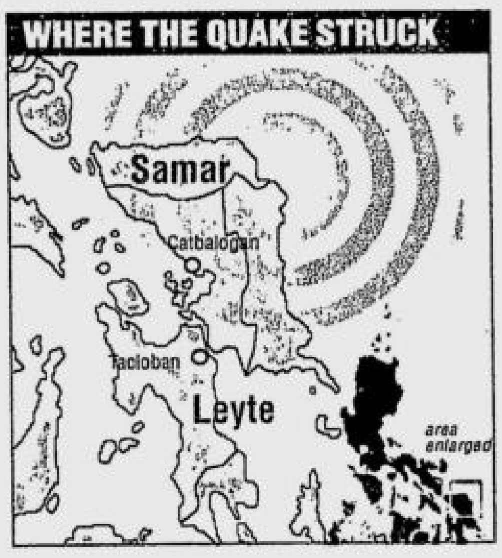
The NDCC-Office of Civil Defense, represented by Duque, and the Apsa, represented by its administrator Carlos Ganihong, signed a memorandum of agreement on Monday that designated Apsa to conduct courses on "Medical First Responder" and "Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue."

Course participants are taught how to assess the condition of disaster victims, stabilize and prepare victims for transport to secure medical settings and to provide skills above the first-aid level, Duque said.

"Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue" imparts skills in shoring unstable structures, breaching barriers, keeping victims alive, lifting and moving objects, and locating, securing and extricating victims, she added.

Acting Gov. Isidro Zayco welcomed the disaster-preparedness training in the province, saying it is a must in order to save lives.

He said the training being conducted in Bacolod was very significant in the wake of the earthquake that hit Indonesia last week.



2 slain men suspects in leftist's killing

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE TWO VICTIMS OF summary execution here on Friday turned out to be suspects in the April 24 killing of a peasant leader in a public market in Panabo City in Davao del Norte.

Senior Supt. Willie Dangane, chief of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division (RIID) of the Central Mindanao police command, identified the victims as Enrique Solon, alias Monching Cepeda, of Panabo; and Michael Buenaflor, 25, of Tibal-og, both in Davao del Norte.

Dangane said police found that Solon and Buenaflor were the prime suspects in the killing of Enrico Cabanit, 54, secretary general of the Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagsasariling Lokal na Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka) and a farmer representative of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

He said Solon and Buenaflor were guns-for-hire who were also suspects in a series of summary executions in this city.

The two were drinking outside their house in Labangal Village on Friday when motorcycle-riding men arrived and shot them.

Members of the Panabo police, led by Insp. Wilfredo Fuerto, arrived Saturday with some members of the Solon family.

Cases

Fuerto confirmed to the local police that Solon had a pending murder case in a court in Panabo in connection with the killing of Cabanit.

Dangane said police still could not determine the motive for the killing or who was behind it.

In Pagadian City, Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos said political killings were not the solution to the insurgency problem in his province.

Ocampos made the remarks as he expressed outrage over the killing of Jemias Tinambacan, a pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and local Bayan Muna chair.

The governor also told the military "to deal legally with leftists working in the 'white area' and combat with bullets those leftists operating in the 'red area.'"

On May 9, Tinambacan and his wife Marilou were on their way to Oroquieta City when motorcycle-riding men ambushed their van.

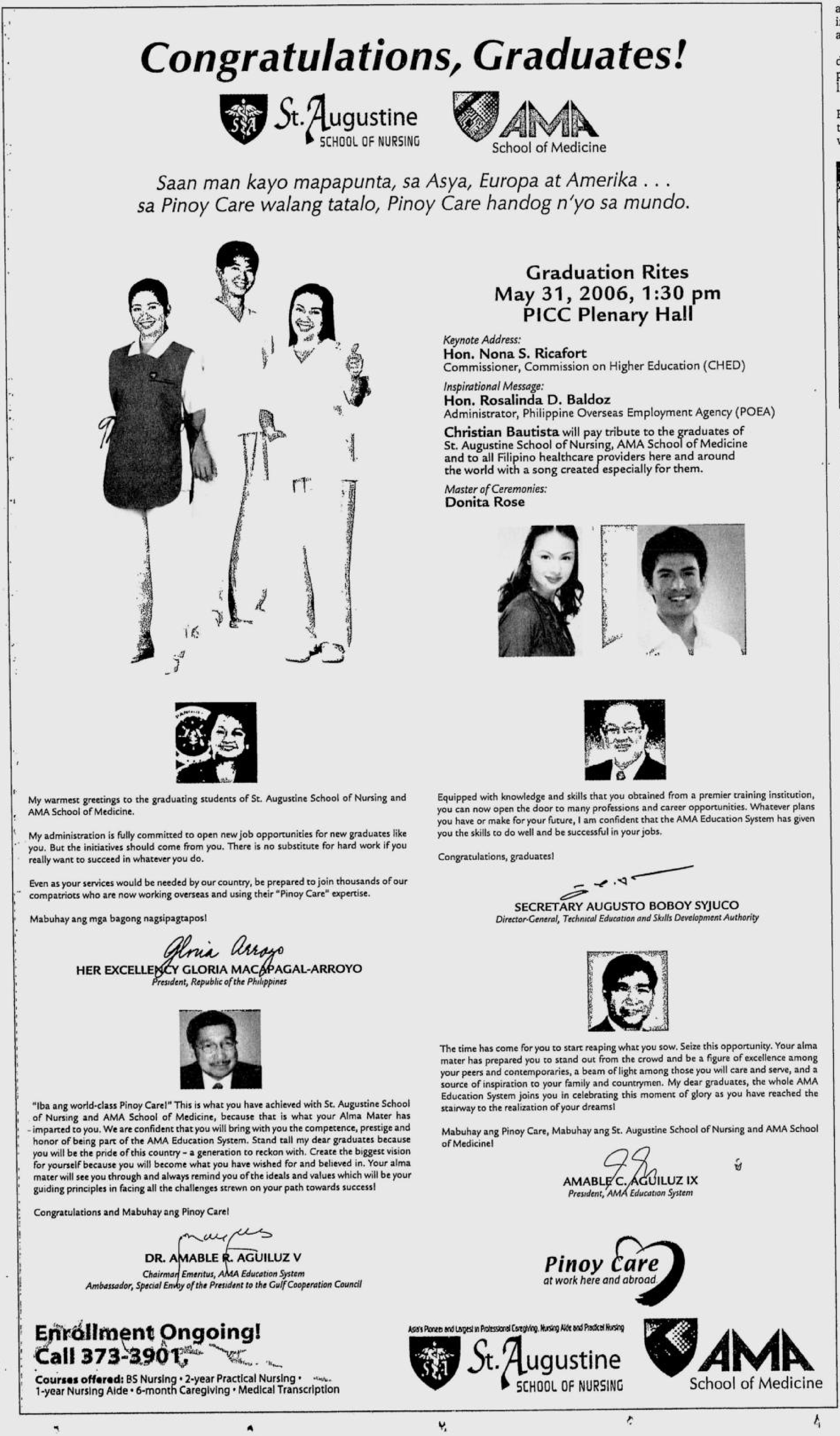
Military ties

Marilou identified one of the four suspects as Orland Guimalan, an alleged military asset residing in Barangay Calaran in Calamba town where she used to work as a pastor in a UCCP Church.

"I am outraged by these political killings. The battle against insurgency cannot be won by bullets but by winning the hearts and minds of the people," Ocampos told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In the past months, police stations in Sapang Dalaga and Sinacaban towns had been overrun by communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Two militiamen and a soldier were killed in the Sapang Dalaga raid on April 11 and several firearms were taken by the rebels. *Aquiles Zonio and Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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AMA School of Medicine

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sa Pinoy Care walang tatalo, Pinoy Care handog n'yo sa mundo.

Graduation Rites
May 31, 2006, 1:30 pm
PICC Plenary Hall

Keynote Address:
Hon. Nona S. Ricafort
Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

Inspirational Message:
Hon. Rosalinda D. Baldoz
Administrator, Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA)

Christian Bautista will pay tribute to the graduates of St. Augustine School of Nursing, AMA School of Medicine and to all Filipino healthcare providers here and around the world with a song created especially for them.

Master of Ceremonies:
Donita Rose

My warmest greetings to the graduating students of St. Augustine School of Nursing and AMA School of Medicine.

My administration is fully committed to open new job opportunities for new graduates like you. But the initiatives should come from you. There is no substitute for hard work if you really want to succeed in whatever you do.

Even as your services would be needed by our country, be prepared to join thousands of our compatriots who are now working overseas and using their "Pinoy Care" expertise.

Mabuhay ang mga bagong nagsipagtapos!

Gloria Arroyo
HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Equipped with knowledge and skills that you obtained from a premier training institution, you can now open the door to many professions and career opportunities. Whatever plans you have or make for your future, I am confident that the AMA Education System has given you the skills to do well and be successful in your jobs.

Congratulations, graduates!

SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Director-General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

"Iba ang world-class Pinoy Care!" This is what you have achieved with St. Augustine School of Nursing and AMA School of Medicine, because that is what your Alma Mater has imparted to you. We are confident that you will bring with you the competence, prestige and honor of being part of the AMA Education System. Stand tall my dear graduates because you will be the pride of this country – a generation to reckon with. Create the biggest vision for yourself because you will become what you have wished for and believed in. Your alma mater will see you through and always remind you of the ideals and values which will be your guiding principles in facing all the challenges strewn on your path towards success!

Congratulations and Mabuhay ang Pinoy Care!

DR. AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V
Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System
Ambassador, Special Envoy of the President to the Gulf Cooperation Council

The time has come for you to start reaping what you sow. Seize this opportunity. Your alma mater has prepared you to stand out from the crowd and be a figure of excellence among your peers and contemporaries, a beam of light among those you will care and serve, and a source of inspiration to your family and countrymen. My dear graduates, the whole AMA Education System joins you in celebrating this moment of glory as you have reached the stairway to the realization of your dreams!

Mabuhay ang Pinoy Care, Mabuhay ang St. Augustine School of Nursing and AMA School of Medicine!

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Aeta people like leaves on water

By Tonette Orejas
San Marcelino, Zambales

IN MAY 1972, THE BUDDING anthropologist in Dr. Rufino Tima asked: "Who are the Aeta?"

After 33 years of working with the tribe on Mt. Pinatubo, Tima, now 70, has drawn more real answers, enriching what the late Apo Pan Key-Ang painted of his people.

"We, Aeta, are like leaves on the water; we go where the current takes us," the tribal priest then told Tima in his first days at Sitio Kakilingan at the Negrito reservation in San Marcelino, Zambales.

Tima saw more because after two years of field research, he chose to stay on, work with them, and raise his family in their midst from the martial law era to the 1990s.

He summed up everything in a 159-page book, "Leaves on the Water (The Struggle for Survival of Pinatubo Aeta)."

Not only does the book provide rich glimpses into the life and changes in the tribe, especially how they coped with one of the world's biggest volcanic eruptions in the 20th century. It provides a roadmap for development and disaster management work by tribes and suggests their roles in the country's future.

"[They] have something of value to share with all of us in the larger world," Tima said.

"That they were the first to inhabit the Philippines more than 20,000 years ago and continue to exist as a people to this day should say something about their culture and strategy of survival from which we could all learn," the book's preface read.

First encounter

But this valuable array of insights would not have been possible had he not, in his own words, "decided to do something about the pressing problems among a people I felt close affinity with as I myself is a member of another indigenous group, the Kalinga of Northern Luzon."

Tima's first encounter with the Aeta revealed a lot: Land dispute, violence by plantation guards and corruption by the then Commission on National Integration that leased out lands in the reservation to planters.

AN AETA woman is set to sell bananas in the lowland market. Towering behind her is Mt. Pinatubo before the 1991 eruptions.

PHOTOS FROM ARCHIVES OF SAMUEL ANDRES

DR. RUFINO Tima with Aeta of Sitio Lomboy

Illiteracy, poor health, food shortage and security issues plagued the people.

But they were also receptive to changes. They practiced wet rice farming, used plow and carabao, married lowlanders, and accepted modern medicines.

These were reasons enough for Tima to leave teaching jobs in Quezon City and head the Ecumenical Foundation for Minority Development (EFMD), which was formed by the Minority Development Committee that commissioned the research.

The EFMD trustees, he said, were members of five church groups. The Roman Catholic Church, Philippine Independent Church, Philippine Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church, and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines worked together on the Negrito development project starting 1975.

This was to introduce a "planned change" similar, he noted, to the Vicos project in Peru with the Maya Indians.

9-day exposure

The Aeta project's first year, consumed by consultations in 10 villages, ended with a nine-day exposure by 21 Aeta to the Ibaloi, Kankanaey, Bontoc, Kalinga, Ifugao and Ikalahan communities.

"Almost all of them brought home bundles of coffee, seedlings, vegetable seeds, brooms and other mementos. It provided real-life inspiration," Tima said.

As they tackled to meet needs in improving livelihood, protecting the reservation, organizing communities and the cooperative, improving health and nutrition and introducing education, the Aeta had to hurdle issues like choosing between carabaos and tractors in the field.

When they selected carabaos, they did not know how to get loans for these. "My meeting with the manager of the local bank quickly settled the issue. With so many forms to accomplish and requirements to produce, including the need for collateral, Aeta farmers would simply not qualify," Tima said.

The EFMD decided to start its own loan program for other things like seeds and tools.

The Aeta found other uses for the carabao. It hauled bamboo sold in the market and was made a *bandi* (dowry or gifts to the parents of a bride).

The tribe increased its participation in the project by organizing the Aeta Development Association.

New outlook

Eventually, a new outlook emerged.

Tima said Pan Key-Ang, for instance, "viewed the benefits of development project not for what he can get for himself but for the welfare of their children."

"This is in sharp contrast to the prevailing view of the Aeta, which is very much present-oriented," Tima said.

To point out the Aeta justice system, Tima devotes a chapter to several incidents that took place during the martial rule when Aeta were killed or abducted for being communist rebels or sympathizers.

He said the tribe had martyrs in the defense of its ancestral abode.

A chapter tells of beliefs and practices. *Kaingin* or slash-and-burn farming, the tribal way, used to work this way until they went into settled farming.

"It is based on a well-established practice of keeping the land in fallow to keep it sustainable. It does not significantly damage the rainforest because the area is large and the Aeta population is relatively small," Tima said.

He said the Aeta concept of home "is not a house, it is a place."

"It is a geographical area where, somehow, they feel they belong, where their children don't get sick often, and where they feel at ease. Even if they transfer their house to another portion of this general area, it is as though they have only moved from one room to another room of the same house," he said.

Aeta people also believe that they share the abode with spirits that interact with them.

Disaster

Tima detailed the tragedy and the exodus of the tribal people that they blamed on the geothermal drillings of the Philippine National Oil Corp. in Pinatubo, the abode of their deity, Apo Namalyari.

The account on the return to Pinatubo and starting a resettlement site of their own tell of the Aeta's determination to end the difficult life in evacuation centers, to start anew, and to get back their land despite government indifference.

Those taken to as far as Palawan and Nueva Ecija have returned.

"The Aeta and other indigenous people in the country constitute the cultural linkage to our precolonial past. They constitute the cultural markers of this period in the nation's history," he said.

'Wild card' tops ₱1-M poker tilt

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

YOUNG BAGUIO ENTREPRENEUR JO DEREK BAUTISTA IS, IN gambling parlance, a wild card. He only learned to play Texas Hold 'Em Poker two years ago with his cousins.

"I don't really frequent the casinos and only go there to ogle," the 28-year-old Bautista said.

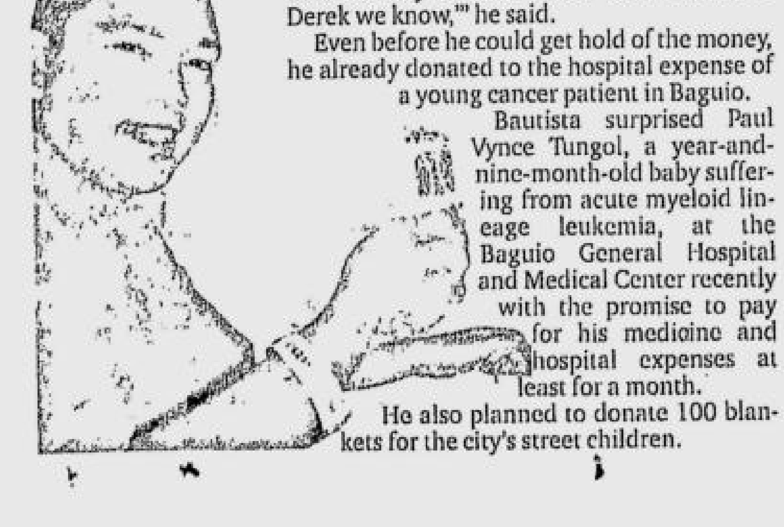
But when the smoke cleared in the Million-Peso Hold 'Em Poker Championship last month at the Airport Casino in Parañaque City, Bautista won the golden championship bracelet and a P1-million prize.

This was the Philippine Poker Tour's richest tournament yet, and it drew about 1,000 players around the country with 160 making it to the finals.

And in his biggest gamble yet, Bautista even then decided to give the prize money to charity.

"My friends were at first surprised about this. But my relatives said, 'Oh. That's the Derek we know,'" he said.

Even before he could get hold of the money, he already donated to the hospital expense of a young cancer patient in Baguio.



BAUTISTA with winning cards

Bautista surprised Paul Vynce Tungol, a year-and-nine-month-old baby suffering from acute myeloid lineage leukemia, at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center recently with the promise to pay for his medicine and hospital expenses at least for a month.

He also planned to donate 100 blankets for the city's street children.

He said his priorities are the elderly, street children and wards of the city jail.

Bautista is the grandson of the late Fernando "Tatay" Bautista, founder of the University of Baguio and sports promoter. Derek used to head the FRB Foundation, which advocates sports promotion in the barangay level. He had helped provide sports equipment in the barangay.

His main passion is bowling, so even he was surprised to have won a major poker tournament. "I entered through the backdoor," he said.

When the winner of the Baguio leg could not make it to the finals, Bautista bought his ticket.

"I have a secret strategic plan which I tried to follow throughout the contest," he said.

The plan must have worked because after the first day of the tournament, Bautista was already leading.

"Poker is a game of taking chances, but it is more a game of patience," he said. "It may be mostly luck but learning the games of your opponents is a big help in my strategy."

In the end, Bautista met Ricky Sarmiento, a nurse, in the finals. They played eight times before the last game where Bautista had an ace and a king.

Sarmiento bet all his money.

The five cards dealt by the dealer did not produce a pair for the two finalists and Bautista's cards held up.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PMO 12-2006)
(PMO Hiring of Financial Advisory Services for the Privatization of Philippine Postal Corporation)

The Privatization and Management Office ("PMO"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), intends to procure the services of a financial advisor ("FA") in connection with the privatization of Philippine Postal Corp. ("Philpost")

The Approved Budget for the Contract ("ABC") is FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (15M), to be paid by PMO and chargeable against the success fee which shall not exceed .75%.

2 PMO now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Financial Advisory Services. Interested FAs must submit their LOIs on or before 2 June 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by hand, to PMO-BAC, and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom for a minimal fee of P10,000.00.

Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the Opening of Eligibility Documents on 8 June 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village Makati City. Only those found eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids

3. The short list of prospective bidders shall not exceed five (5) FAs. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
a. 30% General experience of the FA, considering both the overall experience of the firm and the individual experience of the principal and key staff, including relevant experience of the principal and key staff from previous employment;
b. 30% Privatization experience of the FA;
c. 20% Qualifications of personnel who may be assigned to the project.
d. 20% Dealings of the FA with the Philippine Government

4. In accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 ("RA 9184"), bidding for the hiring of an FA will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed FAs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the PMO. The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. The PMO-BAC shall evaluate bids using the *Quality-Cost Based Evaluation* procedure

5. The eligibility and short listing requirements and the other bidding documents may be obtained from PMO-BAC at the address given below from Mondays to Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submission of bids from the short listed FAs shall be on 28 June 2006, 10:00 a.m.

6 The PMO/PMO-BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any formality in the bid requirements, to declare the bidding a failure, to annul the bidding process without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Government.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
4th Floor, 104 Gamboa Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 893-1640/893-7096/817-1103
Fax No. 893-2290
Website: www.pmo.gov.ph

(Sgd.) CRISANTA S. LEGASPI
Deputy Privatization Officer and
Chairperson, PMO-BAC

(PDI - May 23 & 31, 2006)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

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SIX DIGIT (All in exact order)
8 1 4 6 6 6

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
17 19 29 33 38 40
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Chew to quit on World No Tobacco Day

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU WANT TO QUIT SMOKING, chew gum.

It's not new advice but local health experts believe it could convince Filipino smokers to quit if they would give nicotine gum another chance.

Nicorette, a nicotine replacement therapy, was officially reintroduced to the Philippine market yesterday, the eve of the commemoration of World No Tobacco Day.

Like other nicotine gum brands, the product manufactured by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer supposedly works by helping smokers "calm the cravings" that normally go with the process of quitting.

"Smoking is extremely addictive and it is the cigarette that initiates and sustains such addiction," said Dr. Daniel Tan, president of Tobacco-Free Philippines.

Severe withdrawal symptoms

"When a person quits that habit, he experiences several withdrawal symptoms during abstinence which is only relieved by nicotine administration," he said.

Nicorette was introduced locally by a different company in the 1980s but was pulled out after it failed to take off, according to Dr. Randy Canal, Pfizer's medical and regulatory manager.

Pfizer has reintroduced the product, seeing that 30 percent of Filipinos 20 years old and above were smokers, according to the 2003-2004 National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHeS).

Adult smokers

A separate survey commissioned by the drug company also showed that more than 30 percent of adults in Metro Manila smoked, Canal said.

In a press conference yesterday, Dr. Dante Morales, former president of the Philippine Heart Association, tried to dissuade people from smoking, noting that results of the NNHeS showed that smoking was the second risk factor in atherosclerosis.

Citing another study, Morales said 5.8 percent of cardiologists and pulmunologists in the country were smokers. Only 29 percent of the respondents "routinely advised" their patients to quit.

Not cheap

Sold at P20 per stick or P600 per pack of 30, Nicorette gum is no cheap alternative to cigarettes, Canal admitted. "But in the long run, it will reap benefits for your health."

"Nicorette gum provides the body with the nicotine it craves without all the other harmful chemicals found in a cigarette such as tar and carbon monoxide," according to Pfizer.

The World Health Organization, meanwhile, has accused the tobacco industry of misleading consumers into thinking some tobacco products were less harmful than others.

Descriptions like mild, light, low tar, full flavor, fruit flavored, chocolate flavored, natural additive-free and organic did not make tobacco products safer, the WHO said in a statement yesterday.

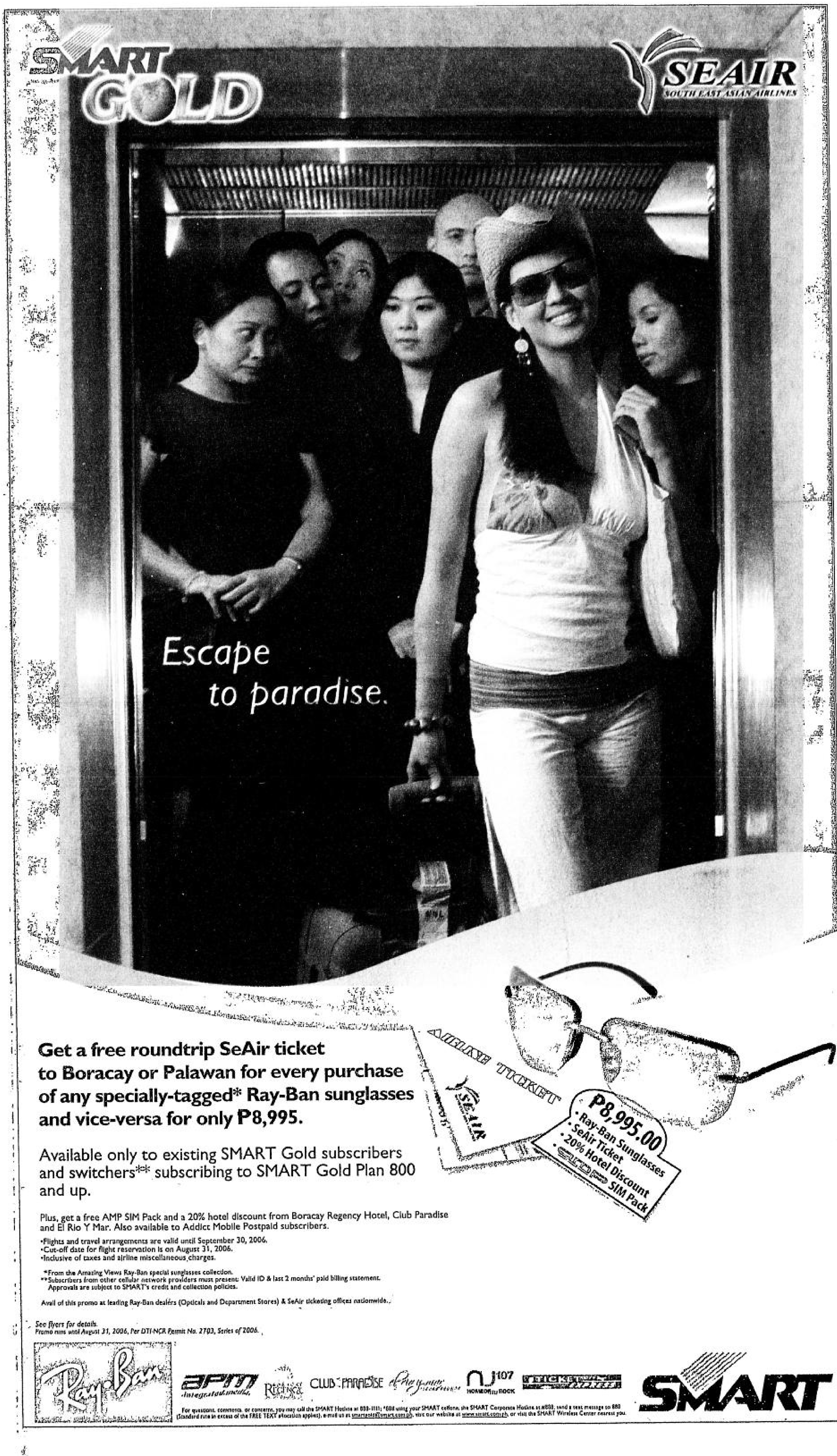
Health choices

"All these products and practices are deadly and addictive and, thus, the absence of truthful information deprives even well-intended people of the ability to make health choices," the WHO's Western Pacific chief Shigeru Omi was cited as saying.

"The purpose of World No Tobacco Day 2006 is to remove the deceit and unveil the truth behind tobacco products," Omi said. The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day is "Tobacco: Deadly in any form or disguise."

Omi called on governments in the region to enact stronger and wider regulation of tobacco products by implementing the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the world's tobacco control treaty that is binding for most countries in the Western Pacific region, including Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam.

The WHO said smoking was the single biggest preventable cause of death worldwide, claiming 4.9 million lives a year. Smokers today number 1.3 billion, but their ranks will rise to 1.7 billion by 2025, based on the current rate of people being lured into the habit, it said. *With a report from AP*



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A plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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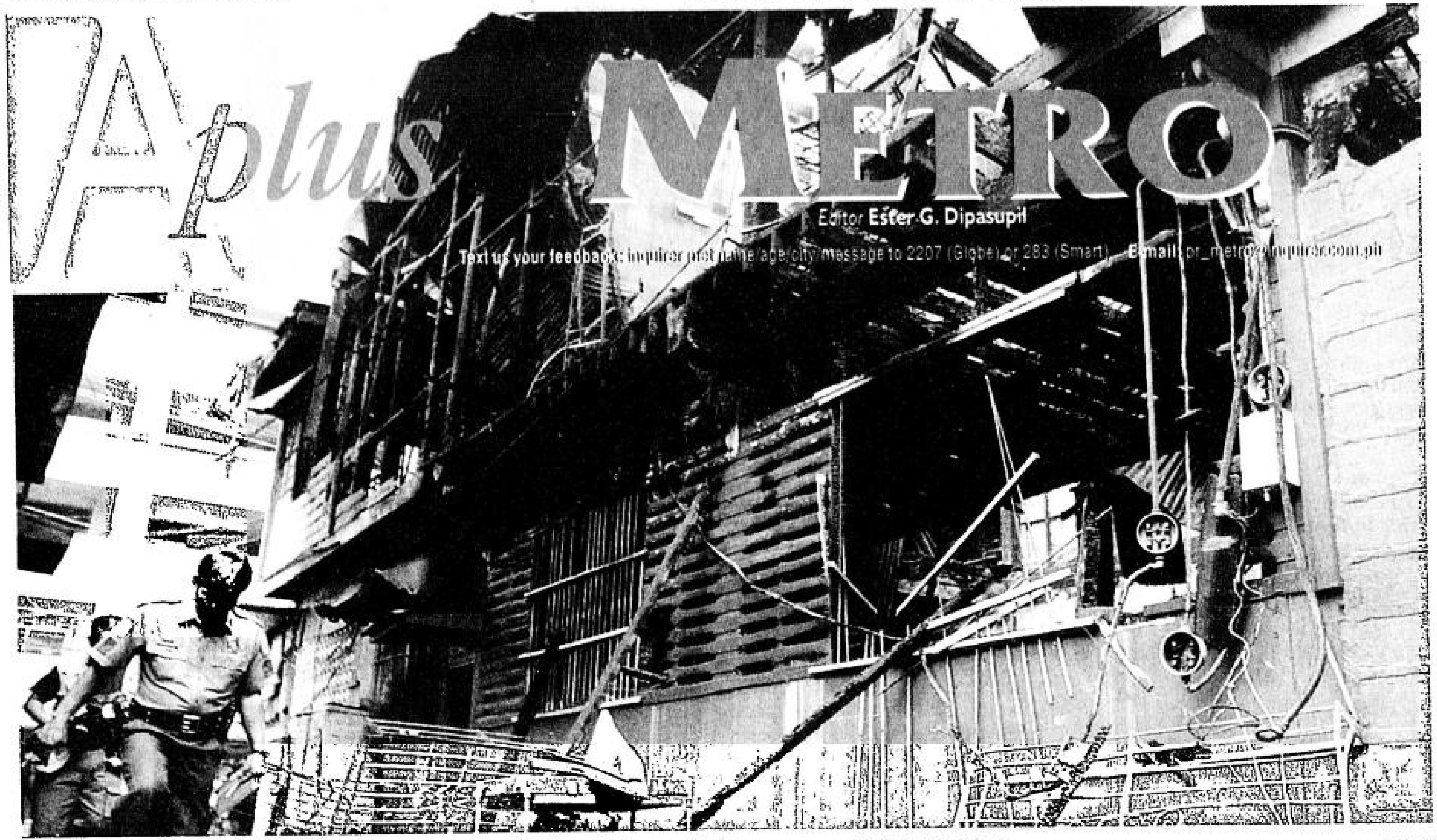


THIS was all that remained when a fire hit this two-story dormitory in January. Eight persons were killed in the blaze.

REUTERS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- NCRPO beefs up loose firearms drive /A22
- Teachers, studes up in arms vs Binondo schools' conversion /A22
- QC resto, food chain commissary closed for untreated wastewater /A22

10 dormitories face closure

No fire exits, safety equipment in establishments

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT IS SET TO serve closure orders today to around 10 to 12 dormitories or boarding houses, mostly in the Sampaloc area, for being fire traps.

"The permits of these establishments would be revoked or suspended depending on their offenses," said Louie Manimtim, head of the committee on dormitories of the Office of the City Administrator.

According to Manimtim, most of the establishments they were targeting had exposed electrical wiring and did not have fire exits or fire protection equipment such as extinguishers, sprinklers and fire alarm systems.

Manimtim, however, refused to identify the dormitories and boarding houses because the city government has yet to serve the notices of closure on their owners.

He added that the Bureau of Permits and Development Office, which will serve the notices, would only issue a temporary closure order to give owners enough time to install safety measures in their establishments before classes open next week.

"In the meantime, they would remain closed until after they comply with the general safety requirements," he said.

Manimtim had earlier said that at least half of the 230 legitimate boarding houses and dormitories they had inspected had not complied with fire safety standards. The inspection was part of the city government's preparation for the resumption of classes.

"This is one measure to protect our students, especially in the university belt area," Councilor Ernesto Dionisio, majority floor leader, had said in an earlier interview.

Dionisio noted that a lot of boarding houses and dormitories in the city were old, crowded and had poor ventilation.

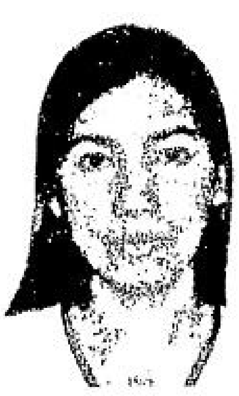
In January, eight persons died in a fire that gutted a two-story apartment building in Manila's crowded Sampaloc district.

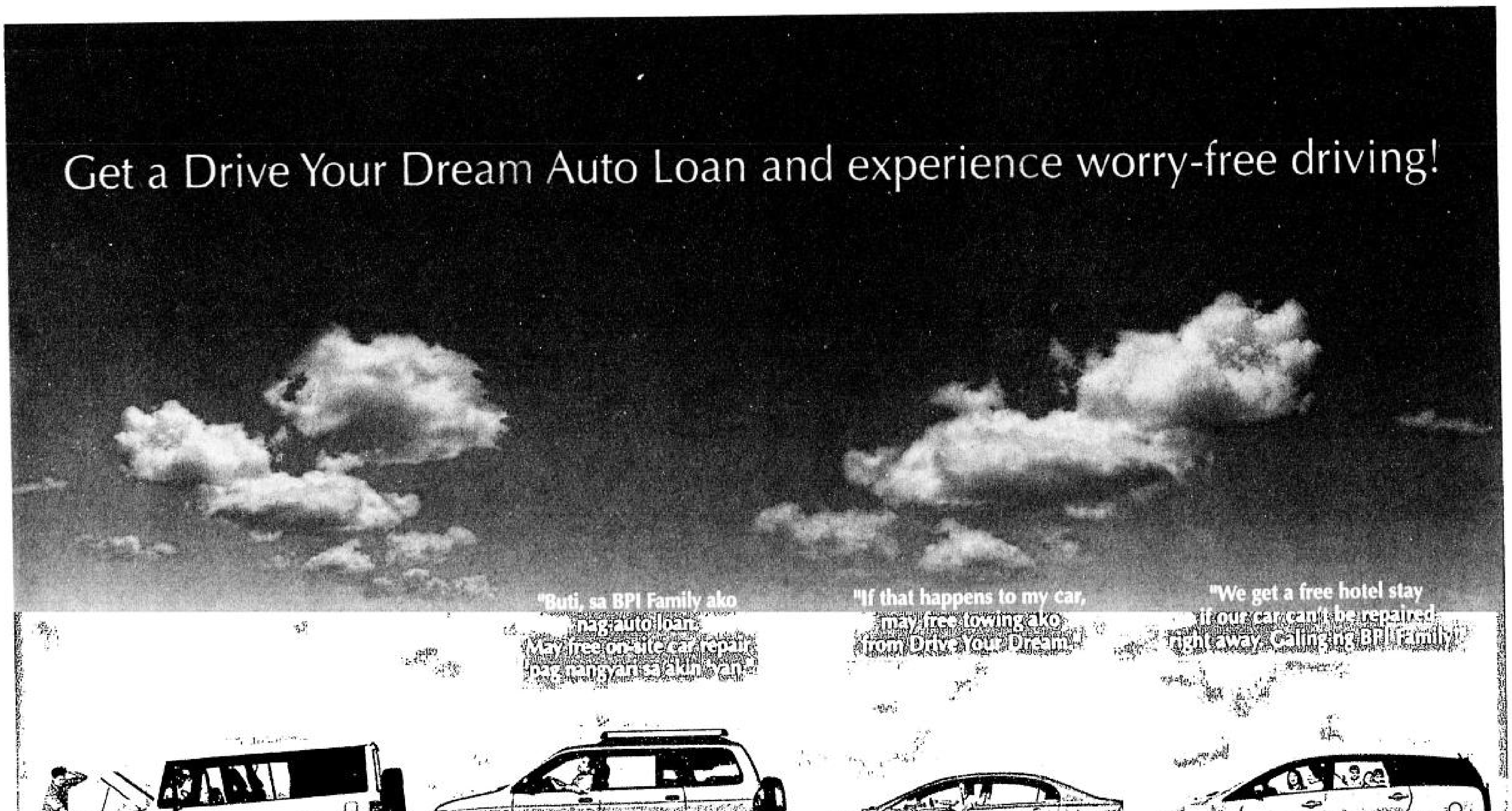
Then Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes later ordered an extensive inspection of student dormitories and boarding houses for possible violation of existing fire regulations and safety standards.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the public that Ms. Ruby Rose M. Zapanta, 31 years old, a resident of Taytay, Rizal, whose photo appears herewith passed away on May 11, 2006 as a result of a hit-and-run accident on May 08, 2006, at around 2 a.m. at the east-bound lane of Aurora Boulevard corner Anonas Street, Quezon City (in front of the World Citi Medical Center). Witnesses reported that the car involved was a white Toyota Corolla Altis. The family would appreciate any information from witnesses. Please call 0915-835-8728 (George Zapanta) or 0927-398-6786 (Geneliza Adelan)

Thank you.

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NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

Please be informed that on 29 June 2005, your Board of Trustees approved and adopted resolutions to amend the Articles of Incorporation to increase the par value of the shares of stock of your Corporation from Ten Pesos (Php 10.00) per share to One Hundred Pesos (Php 100.00) per share. These resolutions were approved by the stockholders of the Corporation at their meeting held on 08 May 2006.

The increase in par value will result in the reduction of the issued and outstanding shares of your Corporation and a reduction in the number of shares that you currently own and/or hold but the value of your shares will be maintained. This will also result in stockholders of the Corporation as of 08 May 2008 holding fractional shares. As an example, if a stockholder owns 158 shares with a par value of Php 1,580.00 after the increase in par value, the same stockholder will own fifteen (15) shares with a par value of Php 1,500.00 and a fractional share of 0.8 share valued at Php 80. However, the fractional share will no longer be considered as issued and outstanding.

In the case of a stockholder as of 08 May 2006 owning less than 100 shares, said stockholder will end up owning only a fractional share and will no longer be considered a stockholder of the Corporation but will continue to hold a fraction share.

In the same resolutions of the Board approved by the stockholders, it was resolved that stockholders who will end up with fractional shares shall have the option to complete their fractional shares into whole shares at the price equivalent to Php 100.00 per share. In the example provided above, the stockholder who will own 0.8 fractional share may pay Php 20.00 to complete his/her one (1) share.

The payment for the said subscriptions to complete stockholders' fractional shares into whole shares may be made **on or before 21 June 2006** at the following locations:

Cagayan de Oro College, Inc.
Max Suniel St., Carman
Cagayan de Oro City
Misamis Oriental

Contact person : Ms. Cecile Laguna
Telephone no. : (088) 858-3880

or

Phinma Education Network
12th Floor, The Phinma Plaza
39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center
Makati City

Contact person : Ms. Roselle Obedoza
Telephone no. : (632) 870-0136

Please note that the foregoing increase in par value and the corresponding amendment of Article Seventh of the Articles of Incorporation are subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

If you have questions regarding the foregoing, please contact the above-named individuals.

DR. MELITON B. SALAZAR, JR.
President

(PDI–May 31, 2006)

NCRPO beefs up loose firearms campaign

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police Office (NCRPO) has renewed its crackdown on loose firearms following recent incidents of killings of militant leaders and journalists in the past months.

In a letter of instruction, Director Vidal Querol, NCRPO chief, ordered the heads of the five Metro police districts to strictly implement "Oplan Katapat," a campaign against holders of unlicensed firearms or those who bring their licensed guns outside their homes without the necessary permit.

"In order to deter violence, the problem regarding the proliferation of loose firearms and the (unrelented) use of licensed ones should be immediately addressed," Querol said.

He added that the spate of unsolved killings of journalists, party-list members and former rebels—which were "being sensationalized by the media"—have caused embarrassment to the government, especially to the Philippine National Police.

The campaign will target unlicensed or improperly documented guns owned by officials or personnel of law enforcement agencies such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other national agencies. Also included are local government units as well as private armies and organized crime groups, said Querol.

"It shall likewise be directed nct only against unlicensed firearms but also firearms covered with a license or memorandum receipt (that are) carried outside of residences without a proper permit or authorization," he added.

Licensed gun holders need a permit to carry firearms outside of residence (PTCFOR) which authorizes them to carry their firearms outside their homes.

Querol ordered the Regional Intelligence Division to identify holders of loose firearms or those who carry licensed guns in public without a PTCFOR.

At the same time, he reminded his men to be in proper uniform and to be courteous when conducting operations, particularly at mobile checkpoints.

"Respect for human rights and the Police Operational Procedures must be observed at all times," Querol said.

All guns seized during the operations will be turned over to the Firearms and Explosive Division and Civil Security Group in Camp Crame.

Appropriate charges will also be immediately filed against offenders, he added.

Binondo schools' conversion opposed

By Tina G. Santos

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF two public high schools in Binondo, Manila, will hold rallies when classes reopen next week to protest their relocation to another area to give way for the construction of commercial establishments.

The transfer of the Rajah Sulayman and Jose Abad Santos High Schools to another site seemed likely after the City Council ratified the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Manila government and the project developer.

Benjie Valbuena, administrative officer of the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA), said they would stage a protest action when classes open on Monday.

"The move will affect thousands of children from poor families who are working hard to study in order to improve their lot and ensure a better future for them and their families," Valbuena said.

He said the ratification of the MOA would pave the way for the transfer of the two schools, a move that would affect 10,000 students.

Valbuena said that apart from the teachers and students, the community was also opposed to the proposal to transfer the schools to a new site—a 21,727-sq.-m. property owned by the city government at Calle Urbiztondo and Calle Barraca in San Nicolas, Manila.

The two schools, which are situated on Reina Regente and Gen. Lachambre Streets, have a combined area of 30,782 sq. m. The area will be developed by Megaworld Corp. for the building of a condominium and commercial establishments.

Mayor Lito Atienza had said earlier that the project would greatly benefit residents.

Councilors supportive of the transfer had said that the transfer would put the students in a new and modern setting conducive to learning since a new school would be built, equipped with a language proficiency center and a teachers' dormitory.

They also assured teachers, students and their parents that there would be no relocation until the proposed school complex has been built.

Councilors opposed to the move, however, said the city government stands to lose more than P1 billion from the sale of the property on which the two schools are situated.

METROBRIEFS

Two establishments shut

THE LAGUNA Lake Development Authority yesterday served cease-and-desist orders on two popular food establishments in Quezon City for allegedly discharging untreated wastewater into outlets that drain out into the Laguna de Bay. Ordered closed were the Kentucky Fried Chicken fast food restaurant in Acropolis, Libis, and a commissary of Cabalen, a restaurant serving native dishes, on J.P. Rizal Avenue corner C. Aguinaldo Street in Project 4. In a statement, the LLDA said that it ordered the establishments shut after the owners failed to implement corrective measures to abate or control their untreated wastewater discharges. The LLDA added that it had given the establishments more than enough time to come up with remedies.

Norman Bordadora

In trouble for dirty ditty

'LANGYA KA GINAWA MO KONG PUNCHING BAG !

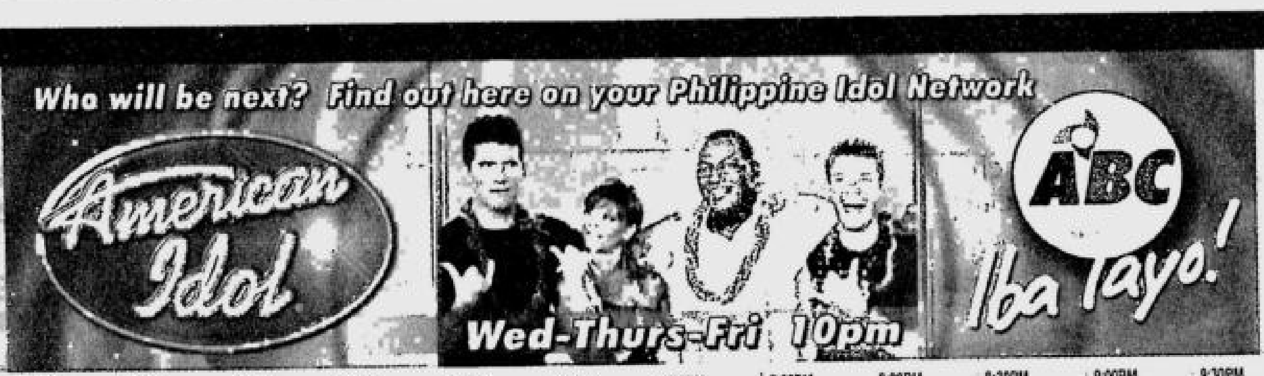
A MAN is in trouble for allegedly punching an elderly woman who scolded him when he sang an obscene ditty at a birthday party. Romeo Pikit, of Barangay Old Balara, Quezon City, was charged with serious physical injuries for assaulting 64-year-old Rosita Gardon on May 17. In a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Gardon accused Pikit of punching her thrice in the face inside a friend's house on Laura Street, Purok 4 in Area 5, Barangay Old Balara. The complainant said she was with a group of friends during a birthday party when Pikit arrived, apparently drunk, and began singing a dirty song. When she asked him to stop, he hit her and then escaped.

DJ Yap

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Wednesday, May 31, 2006


Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	Pinoy Big Brother	My Girl	Wonderful Life	S.O.C.O.			Insider
AXN		CSI: NY (Season 2)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Beastmaster (Season I)		Pensacola (Season III)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Maximum Exposure (Season I)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Waikiki				Ibaan Mo Bayan Ko				Hula Mo Huli Ko			Persona	Friends In Love (9:15 PM)				Nasaan Ka Man	
Cinemax		Commandments (3:10 PM)			The Rundown (4:45 PM)				Happy Campers (6:25 PM)			The Italian Job				Pterodactyl (9:50 PM)			Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Cold Case		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Murder By Numbers				Bones	
Discovery Channel		Unsolved History		American Chopper		The Ultimate Guide		In The Eye Of The Storm		Wild Discovery		Hour China		Hypersonics With Sam Neil		Dangerman: Adventures With Geoff Mackley		World's Strangest UFO Stories	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unbakable Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	101 Dalmatians			American Dragon	Buzz on Maggie	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Groove Squad Cheerleaders	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Women's Tour of Champs		Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Tour de Taiwan '06 (Int'l)		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Motorsport Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing Arguello vs. Olivares/Chavez vs Alvi		Classic Boxing Greatest Fights of the Century		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars 2		Beach Girls		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Cold Turkey		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Familial Statesman	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Faith In Motion	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	EWTN Presents	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	I Luv NY	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Jewel In The Palace		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters IV		Whackers (4:05 PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Judging Amy		Robin Cook's Terminal			Judging Amy (11:45 PM)
HBO			Mother (3:45 PM)				Sahara			Harper The Spy (7:15 PM)				Mean Girls			Twelve Monkeys		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Angelic Layer	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Angelic Layer
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics Arts		ME TV		Global Family Songs	BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Host		Velocity		X-Men	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	My Name Is Earl	The Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Primetime Glick	Chappelle Show
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Decorating Cents	Bill Boggs Corner Table	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Martha		Fine Living Special		Intimate Portrait	
MTV Philippines		Laguna Beach		MTV Screen	Pop Inc		MTV Hits (with SMS)			Get Spotted	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	Hanging Out In Boracay	TRL		Laguna Beach		Summer Sessions: Urbandub in Boracay	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 6	MYXLOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Hidden Worlds: Africa's Hog Heaven		Totally Wild: Marine Iguanas	Planet Wild	Top 5 - World Cup Goals	Top 5 - World Cup Goals	WOW! Heroes: Empires: A History of Conquest		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Seconds From Disaster: Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster		Is it Real? Exorcism	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap			Doon Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly OddParents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly OddParents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Ikaw Lamang				I Love You He Loves Me You Love Her				Ben Delubyo				Ang Syota Kong Balikbayan				Sermon, Nights 2
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zipang	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	NBA Semis/ Conference Finals						Newswatch Now	Cargo For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Quantum Global		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports					Tennis: WTA Estoril Open Finals					Sogupaan	Boxing Out For Glory Mayol-Kyoka						Solar Sports Desk	Philippine Badminton Open Finals	
Sports Plus						French Open '06 Day4 2nd rd													
Star Movies	Madonna: Truth Or Dare (2:25 PM)				Sonic Impact (4:20 PM)			Uptown Girls (5:55 PM)			Undercover Brother			Catch That Kid			Johnson Family Vacation		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		American Idol		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol: Beauty And The Geek		Grey's Anatomy		Smallville (Season 4)		Seinfeld	American Idol: Beauty And The Geek
Studio 23	Bewitched	YuGi-Oh 3 & 4				Batman Beyond	Xiaolin Showdown	Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Videos		CSI (8:20 PM)	24 Season 4 (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Fresh violence erupts in East Timor

DILI—GANGS BATTLED EACH other in the East Timorese capital again Tuesday close to the palace where President Xanana Gusmao was holding crisis talks to pull his country back from the brink of civil war.

Sporadic gunfire echoed around the city as ethnic gangs from the east and west of the tiny country squared off around the main road linking the airport with the city center.

Groups of youths in balaclavas carrying traditional meter-long East Timorese swords, machetes and metal pipes burned and looted buildings, defying efforts by Australian and other foreign troops to keep the peace.

Thick black smoke hung over the city from fires set by the rival gangs as the violence moved for the first time toward the center of Dili.

"Where were the Australians?" one man told AFP as he watched his home burn in the suburbs. "Why weren't they here?"

Just 100 meters from the worst of the violence—in which one man was disarmed by Australian troops of a pistol—Gusmao met Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and his Cabinet over the crisis that has paralyzed the country.

Tens of thousands have fled their homes and many have been queuing up desperately at food warehouses.

The unrest began last month when Alkatiri sacked 600 soldiers, or about 40 percent of the armed forces, after they protested over alleged discrimination against soldiers from the east of the country.

This divide between soldiers from the country's east and west is central to the violence that has plunged the country close to civil war. The director of Dili's Valadares hospital said 20 people had been killed in the past week.

"The majority of the army comes from the east (and) the majority of the police from the west, although there are also internal factions along those lines," said Damien Kingsbury of Australia's Deakin University.

During the Indonesian occupation from 1975, police were recruited mainly from the west and the militias which went on the rampage after the vote for independence in 1999 were also stronger in the west, he said.

"Westerners were very much in favor of independence but because there were a few bad people there, militiamen and police and so on, they've been tarred with the same brush by easterners, essentially as collaborators," he said.

Alkatiri's leadership has been challenged by the dissident soldiers and many in the former Portuguese colony blame him for allowing the situation to deteriorate.

While the presidential meeting was expected to last until Wednesday, Gusmao was poised to unveil a new Cabinet Tuesday, Portuguese Foreign Minister Diogo Freitas do Amaral said in Lisbon. *AFP*

'HILLARY MARATHON'

Marathon runners run at the start of the "Everest Hillary Marathon" at Everest Base Camp May 30. Over 140 marathon runners took part in the race covering 42.195 km from Everest Base Camp to Namche Bazar from a height of 5,364 meters to 3,446 meters. AFP

EU puts Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels on its terror list

BRUSSELS—THE EUROPEAN Union put Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers on its list of terrorist groups on Monday, despite a warning from the rebels that the move could force them back to war.

The EU ban, agreed in principle on May 18, was made official at a meeting of ministers from the 25-member bloc to discuss competition issues.

It will deprive the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of some of the vital funds they collect from members of the Tamil diaspora in Europe.

As well as freezing rebel funds, the move, which came at the urging of the United States and the Sri Lankan government, also provides for special EU cooperation measures to combat the group.

The separatist ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has claimed more than 60,000 lives since 1972. More than 200 people died last month despite a four-year truce between government forces and the rebels, brokered by Norway.

Sri Lanka had hoped a ban would force the rebels to the negotiating table, and the EU move comes just as the rebels have accepted an invitation to take part in talks in Norway next month.

An EU diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the LTTE had brought the ban on itself.

"If they had been serious at the negotiating table we could have thought about another way, we would have set up a virtuous circle, instead of this vicious circle that we're in at the moment," he said. *AFP*

Malaysia arrests 12 terror suspects

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIAN police have arrested 12 men from a radical Islamic group that they suspect was planning attacks on several neighboring countries, a news report said Tuesday.

The Star newspaper said the 12 men—at least two of them Malaysians—worked for a group known as Darul Islam, and described the arrests as Malaysian police's biggest success against terrorism since the crackdown five years ago on Kumpulan Militan Malaysia, or KMM, a homegrown Islamic extremist group.

At the time, scores of suspected members of KMM, which is aligned with the regional, al-Qaida-linked group Jemaah Islamiyah, were arrested and jailed under a law that allows indefinite detention without trial.

Details about the group's planned targets were not clear, The Star said.

Police officials could not be immediately reached on Tuesday to confirm the newspaper report.

The Star said Darul Islam is a new Indonesian group, but the International Crisis Group think tank and other analysts have previously documented the origins of a movement with that name.

The ICG says Darul Islam was the name given to regional rebellions in Indonesia's West Java province in 1948, and in South Sulawesi and Aceh provinces in 1953. *AP*

Indonesia confirms 36th bird flu death

JAKARTA—INDONESIA ON MONDAY CONfirmed the country's 36th death from bird flu, after tests by a World Health Organization-accredited laboratory found an 18-year-old man had died of the virus.

"We received the result for the boy today. It's positive," said Ahmad Prihatna, an epidemiologist at the health ministry.

The boy and his 10-year-old sister died last week at the Hasan Sadikin hospital in Bandung, the capital of West Java province.

The WHO had earlier confirmed bird flu as the cause of the girl's death.

Earlier this month, fears of possible human-to-human transmission of avian influenza were heightened after it was confirmed that seven members of the same family died in North Sumatra from the virus.

WHO experts said there may have been limited human-to-human transmission but insisted the virus had not mutated into a more easily transmissible form.

Some 30 people who have come into contact with the stricken family have been isolated but so far they have not shown any symptoms of bird flu, the WHO said.

More than 120 people have died of bird flu around the world since late 2003, the vast majority of them in Asia.

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, has had more bird flu deaths than any other country this year.

The sprawling archipelago has the world's second highest number of fatalities since 2003, after Vietnam. So far, nine Indonesians who were infected have survived.

A senior health ministry official said Saturday the bird flu fight in Indonesia had been hampered by a lack of funds, its geographical conditions and the existence of too many backyard farms. *AFP*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Indon quake death toll soars past 5,400

BANTUL, INDONESIA—RESCUERS SAID HOPES of finding more survivors from a devastating earthquake that killed more than 5,400 people were waning Tuesday, as aid workers from around the world arrived in the disaster zone in central Indonesia.

About 20 US Marines arrived on two military cargo planes in the historic city of Yogyakarta and unloaded heavy lifting machinery and a portable field hospital, as Malaysians; Chinese and Japanese joined Indonesian teams providing medical care and emergency supplies to some 200,000 people left homeless.

Most of the survivors of Saturday's 6.3-magnitude quake were living in improvised shacks close to their former homes or in shelters erected in rice fields.

However, conditions had improved in two hospitals in the quake-zone visited by reporters Tuesday, with no patients being treated outside or in the corridors like there were up until recently.

In a worrying sign, nearby Mount Merapi, which has been belching gas and lava for weeks, shot out more large plumes of ash and debris. A scientist monitoring the peak blamed the heightened activity on the weekend temblor, though other experts said that may not be the case.

The quake pounded tens of thousands of poorly constructed homes into piles of bricks, tiles and wood in less than a minute, as many victims slept or were preparing breakfast.

The head of an emergency response team from Malaysia said it didn't expect to find any more survivors or bodies under the rubble.

"The collapsed homes were all so small that anyone who was trapped would have been extracted by their family members," said Supt. Abdul Aziz Ahmad. He said his team had only found one body on Monday after searching in the worst-hit Bantul district.

Many survivors—who have endured several torrential rain storms and hours baking under the tropical sun—have complained of receiving little or no assistance.

In Jamprip, a village of 300 families, Edi Sutrisno, 37, helped unload a small supply of aid from a military truck—two bags of rice, nine boxes of dried noodles and two boxes of bottled water.

"It's the first we've gotten since the quake," he said. "Of course it's not enough for all of us, not even for a day."

INDONESIAN soldiers remove goods from collapsed houses in Bantul, Yogyakarta, May 30. AFP

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono arrived in the area a few hours after the quake struck. On Monday, he acknowledged a "lack of coordination" in aid distribution and urged government officials to be "more agile."

Yudhoyono's efforts will likely come under intense domestic scrutiny because unlike other disasters in recent years in outlying regions, including the 2004 Asian tsunami, the quake occurred on Java Island, home to almost half of the country's 220 million people, including the bulk of the country's ruling class. *AP*

Thailand sets new elections on Oct. 15

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S CABINET HAS APPROVED Oct. 15 as the date for a general election, the government said Tuesday.

The decision comes amid an extended political crisis that has left Thailand with only a caretaker government and no legislature.

The Oct. 15 date was proposed last week by the country's Election Commission, and approved at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, said government spokesperson Sansanee Nakphong.

Thailand held a general election April 2, but it was boycotted by opposition parties and later declared invalid by the country's top courts.

The new polls' legitimacy is also likely to be questioned, as legal challenges are pending against the Election Commission, which has been criticized over alleged mishandling of the April polls and other matters.

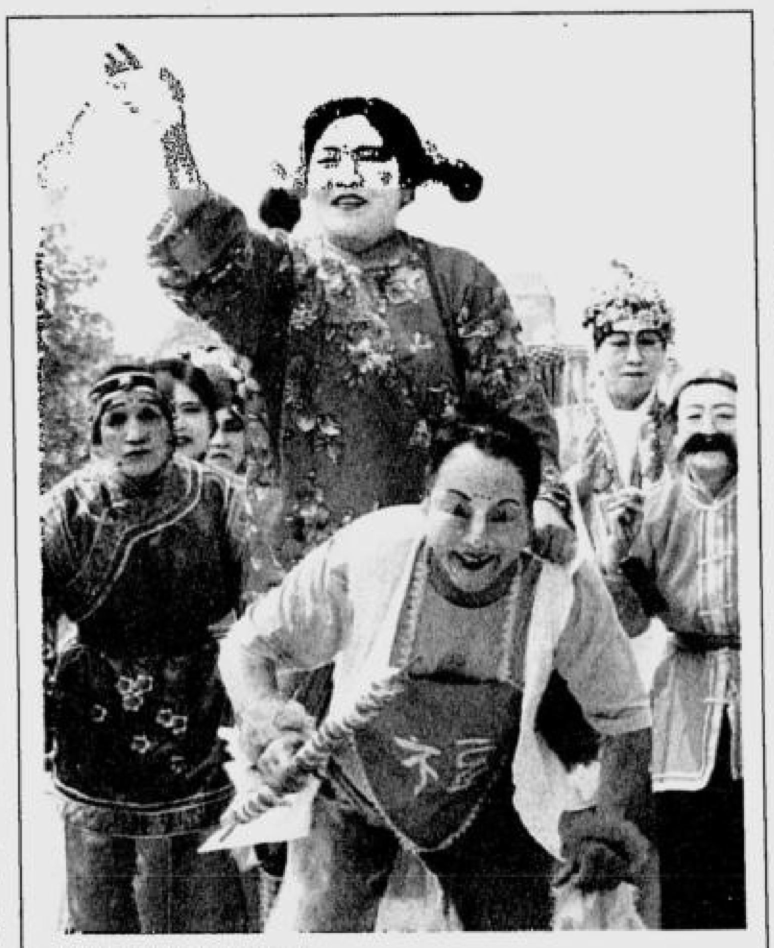
Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, elected to a second term in February 2005, had called the April 2 general election in an attempt to end pressure from near-daily protests demanding he resign over alleged corruption and power abuse.

The election result was inconclusive because opposition parties boycotted the polls. Winners in several constituencies failed to win the minimum legal number of votes required for uncontested election candidates, leaving some parliamentary seats empty and making it impossible for Parliament to convene.

Thaksin is now officially considered a "caretaker" prime minister.

Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej has publicly chastised the nation's top courts for failing to find a solution to the election deadlock, prompting the Constitutional Court to rule the polls unconstitutional and annul them.

The Supreme, Administrative and Constitutional courts have urged Election Commission members to step down for mishandling the polls. *AP*



CHINESE FESTIVAL

Traditional Chinese artists perform during the Dragon Boat Festival in Beijing May 30 to commemorate the attempted rescue of Chinese poet Chu Yuan. REUTERS

Car bomb kills 2 British journalists in Baghdad

WASHINGTON—TWO BRITISH MEMBERS of a US news crew were killed and a reporter seriously wounded on Monday in a car-bomb attack in central Baghdad, raising to 96 the toll of media workers killed in Iraq.

Paul Douglas, 48, a veteran CBS cameraman, and sound technician James Brolan, 42, died, while correspondent Kimberly Dozier, 39, sustained serious injuries, CBS News said.

A makeshift bomb in a parked car exploded as the journalists were accompanying a US army patrol in downtown Baghdad.

Also killed in the attack were a US Army captain and an Iraqi interpreter, according to the British Foreign Office.

The three journalists had gotten out of their armored Humvee vehicle while embedded with the US 4th Infantry division to inspect an Iraqi checkpoint. They were wearing the body armor that US forces oblige them to use, CBS said.

Dozier was hit in the lower body and by a piece of shrapnel to the head.

"Doctors successfully removed the shrapnel from her head, and it did not penetrate her brain, so that does not appear to be life threatening. The serious injuries are to her lower body," CBS reporter David Martin said.

US ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalizad said he was "shocked and saddened" by the attack, and visited Dozier in hospital, according to CBS.

"These brave journalists risked their lives to tell the world the story of a courageous people and a proud nation," Kahlizad said.

A military helicopter flew Dozier from the scene to a US military hospital within the nearby Green Zone but she has now been moved to another hospital north of Baghdad.

Dozier underwent further surgery and doctors stabilized her for an airlift to a US military hospital in Germany once it is safe to move her.

CBS said doctors gave a "cautiously optimistic" prognosis.

"This is a devastating loss for CBS News," said president Sean McManus.

"Kimberly, Paul and James were veterans of war coverage who proved their bravery and dedication every single day." Dozier, who has both US and British citizenship, and her London-based team were added to a long list of journalists killed and wounded in the Iraq war.

CBS said Dozier has been covering the Iraq war for three years.

From 1996-1998, she anchored BBC Radio World Services "World Update" foreign affairs program.

Douglas had worked for CBS News since the 1990s in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Rwanda and Bosnia. *AFP*

Traffic accident sparks riots in Kabul; 14 killed

KABUL—AT LEAST 14 PEOPLE WERE killed as rioters chanting "Death to America" tore through the Afghan capital Monday torching cars and buildings after US troops opened fire following a deadly traffic accident involving a US military vehicle.

Gunshots could be heard near Kabul's diplomatic quarter as restaurants, shops, cars and dozens of police posts were set ablaze in the worst violence to hit the capital since the Taliban regime fell in late 2001.

The United Nations and US embassy ordered their personnel into bunkers and safe zones. Volleys of gunfire rang out as demonstrations erupted across the tense city before Afghan security forces were able to establish order by evening.

The government imposed a six-hour overnight curfew starting from 10 p.m.

It was too early to tell how many people had been killed in the violence, Kabul police criminal investigation department director Abdul Jamil Kohistani told AFP.

The six main hospitals in the city together had 14 dead bodies and more than 140 wounded, most with gun shot wounds, according to an AFP tally.

The trouble began when a US military truck appeared to lose control and smashed into about a dozen cars at a busy intersection in the north of the city.

The US-led coalition said the accident, which may have been caused by faulty brakes, killed one person and injured several. President Hamid Karzai's office said five people were killed.

People angered by the carnage started pelting the military vehicles with stones. *AFP*

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Daewoo founder gets 10-year jail term

SEOUL—A SOUTH KOREAN court has sentenced the founder of the Daewoo group to 10 years in prison and forfeited 21.4 trillion won ($22 billion) for fraud and embezzlement in the country's biggest financial scandal.

Kim Woo-choong, 69, had turned Daewoo into the second-largest conglomerate in the country before fleeing in 1999 as his empire was collapsing under more than $75 billion in debts.

The Seoul Central District Court on Tuesday found him guilty of fraud in securing bank loans, fabricating financial accounts to falsify assets and embezzlement of company funds.

The court also ordered him to pay a 10 million won criminal fine.

"There is a need to show that there is a heavy penalty to pay when you commit acts that betray the trust of economic entities, such as fabricating the accounts or obtaining fraudulent loans," Judge Hwang Hyun-joo said in his summing up when sentencing Kim.

Last year prosecutors charged Kim with illegally procuring loans of about 10 trillion won, taking about $20 billion in Daewoo funds through overseas accounts and helping doctor Daewoo's books to falsify assets of about 41 trillion won.

KIM Woo-Choong

The prosecution had sought a 15-year prison term and 23.2 trillion won in forfeiture. Kim walked into a courtroom packed with 200 people wearing a hospital gown and with an intravenous needle in his arm. The court ordered a suspension of the sentence until July 28 given his health. *Reuters*

World powers to meet anew on Iran crisis

VIENNA—MAJOR WORLD POWERS WILL meet in Vienna on Thursday to finalize a package of incentives for Iran to halt nuclear fuel enrichment along with penalties if it keeps defying international pressure, officials said on Tuesday.

The United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany failed to resolve differences at London talks last week over the extent of sweeteners for Iran or the nature and timing of sanctions if Tehran clung to enriching uranium.

The Chinese government said the sextet's foreign ministers would convene on Thursday in Vienna, where the watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is based. British and European Union officials also confirmed the meeting.

"We hope the meeting will achieve positive results," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao said in Beijing. EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana indicated on Sunday some differences remained but that the six powers were "getting very close" to consensus.

Tehran says it seeks nuclear energy only for electricity. Western powers suspect Iran's program is a civilian cover for efforts to master technology to build atom bombs.

Contacts between the six powers' top diplomats sought to bridge lingering differences over key aspects of the package, including the legal basis of a Security Council resolution to underpin it, an EU diplomat said. *Reuters*

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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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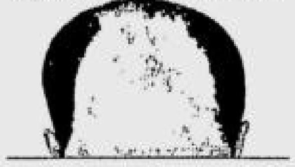

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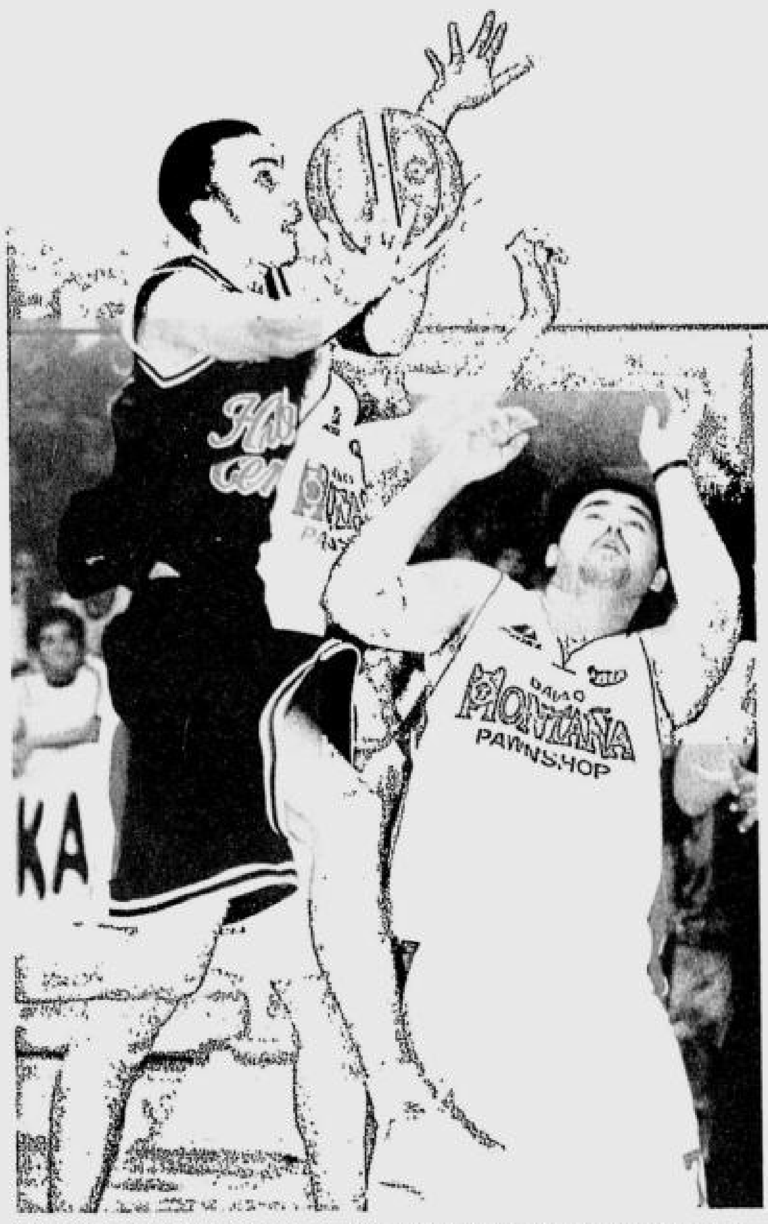

HARBOUR Centre's Rico Maierhofer (left) soars for a layup against Montaña's Kent Bono. RYAN LIM

Sparks near PBL finals

Jewelers level semis series vs Portmasters

GAMES TOMORROW (*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Montaña vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Rain or Shine

By Jasmine W. Payo

BOLSTERED BY AN EARLY shooting spree, Toyota Otis made the defending PBL Unity Cup champions look ordinary.

The Sparks led by as many as 26 points in overwhelming the surprisingly off-form Rain or Shine Elasto Painters, 71-55, to claim a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five semifinal series yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center.

The Sparks again delivered a collective offensive effort rather than rely solely on Fil-Am center Joe Devance and now stood within a win of their first ever championship stint since joining the league in 2004.

Jonathan Aldave paced the balanced attack by scoring all of his 13 points in the second half. Aaron Aban chipped in 10 markers and seven rebounds.

"We're on target in our objective, which is to make it to the championship," said Sparks' coach Louie Alas.

In the second game, the seasoned Montaña Pawnshop turned to rookie Larry Rodriguez to level its own semifinal series with Harbour Centre following an 86-82 triumph.

After Froilan Baguion drilled in a team-high 17 points in the first three quarters, Rodriguez unloaded 10 of his 11 points in the final period as the Jewelers got back at the Portmasters.

The Elasto Painters just couldn't get their shots to fall as they wound up with a horrendous 25 percent shooting clip.

The Sparks rolled to a 26-point lead at 55-29 early in the fourth quarter before reigning Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay pumped in 16 of his game-high 25 points in the last seven minutes to push the Painters within eight, 63-55.

But Toyota Otis insured the win by nailing six straight free throws for a 69-55 edge, with only 4.7 seconds left.

The scores:

First Game

TOYOTA OTIS 71—Aldave 13, Aban 10, Devance 9, Oreta 9, Bautista 8, Rodriguez 7, Alcaraz 6, Casio 5, Daa 4, Coronel 0, Larong 0, Andaya 0.

RAIN OR SHINE 55—Tangkay 25, Ortiguerra 12, Yambao 6, Eman 4, Cabatu 4, Sagad 2, Enrile 2, Tan 0, Malabanan 0, Orbeta 0, Sta. Maria 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 14-8, 27-17, 52-29, 71-55

Second Game

MONTAÑA 86—Baguion 17, Magpayo 16, Juntilla 11, Rodriguez 11, Dela Cuesta 10, Vergara 8, Bono 6, Guerrero 5, Atablanco 2, Buenafe 0, Espiritu 0, Bonus 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 82—Tenorio 15, Yeo 15, Chia 12, Lanete 10, Maierhoffer 8, Reyes 8, Coching 5, Gamboa 4, Alonzo 3, Araña 2.

Quarters: 27-27, 44-45, 60-59, 86-82

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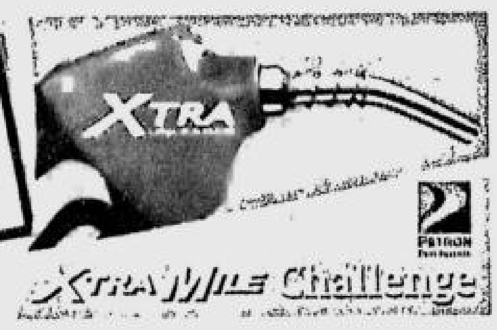


Xtra Mile Challenge

Olympiad: Chinese overpower Filipinos

By Roy Luarca

TURIN, ITALY—AFTER A FLING WITH glory, it's back to harsh reality for the Philippine men's team in the 37th Chess Olympiad.

Only Grandmaster Rogelio Antonio Jr. was able to stop the Chinese juggernaut Monday as the Filipinos absorbed a 3.5-0.5 beating in round 8 at the Olympic Village here.

The Filipinas, on the other hand, held the Iranians to a draw, 1.5-1.5, after Woman International Master-elect Sheerie Joy Lomibao bested WIM Atousa Pourkashiyan on board 1.

Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling, reigning national champion Darwin Laylo and Grandmaster Mark Paragua yielded to higher rated opponents in succession as the Filipinos tumbled to a share of 36th to 41st places.

The 25-year-old Dimakiling bowed to GM Yue Wang after 44 moves of a Trompovsky Opening on board 4, while Laylo overlooked a bishop sacrifice by GM Pengxhinag Zhang and surrendered after 43 moves of a Center Counter.

With his two buddies down, Paragua went for the win and paid the price as GM Xiangzhi Bu outmaneuvered him after 59 moves of a Slav Defense.

Antonio, on the other hand, missed the winning move and settled for a draw with GM Zhong Zhang in 63 moves of a Ruy Lopez.

"Forget about the loss and focus on the next match," National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay told the players during a pep talk.

They really have to as they face another heavyweight, 15th-ranked and all-GM Romania, in round 9 Tuesday.

Against, the 15th-ranked Romania, men's team captain Sammy Estimo will be fielding Paragua, GM Eugene Torre on board 2, Antonio and whiz kid FM Wesley So on board 4.

"The Romanians are strong on all boards," said Estimo. "We have to be very careful."

The 22-year-old Paragua will be pitted against GM Livin Dieter Nisipeanu (Elo 2695), Torre against Andrei Istratescu (2621), Antonio against Vladislav Nevednichy (2582) and the 12-year-old So against Levente Vajda (2511).

Women's team captain Cesar Caturla will be using Lomibao and Catherine Perena, who drew her round 8 match against WGM Shadi Paridar, and WIM Beverly Mendoza.

Olympiad rookie Sherily Cua was rested following her board 3 defeat to WFM Shirin Narabi.

Lomibao faces WFM Zehra Topel, Perena meets Kubra Oztusk, and WIM Corlulu, Nilufer Cinar.

Armenia routed Cuba, 3-1, to pull away from top favorite Russia and Ukraine in the men's division.

The Armenians have 24 points against the Russians and Ukrainians 22. China jumped to 21.5 points in the company of Georgia, France and the United States.

In the distaff side, Russia showed the way with 19 points, towing along Ukraine (18.5), reigning titlist China (17) and the United States.

Round 8 standings

Men

24—Armenia, 22—Ukraine, Russia;21.5—Georgia, France, United States, China; 21—Czech Republic, Germany; 20.5—Cuba, India, Uzbedkistan; 20—Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey; 19.5—Denmark, Netherlands, Croatia, Moldova, Bulgaria, Iran, Norway, Greece, Belarus, Sweden; 19—Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Spain, Israel, Paraguay, Brazil, Indonesia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary; 18.5—Estonia, Poland, England, Mexico, Romania, Philippines

Women

19—Russia, 18.5—Ukraine; 17—China, United States; 16.5—Georgia; 16—Hungary, Bulgaria, Vietnam; 15.5—Germany, Armenia, Slovenia; 15—Lithuania, Romania, Cuba, Poland, France, Belarus; 14.5—Kazakhstan, India, Israel, Croatia, Slovakia, Greece; 14—Ecuador, Kyrgystan, Mongolia, Latvia, Estonia, Spain, Netherlands; 13.5—Philippines and 10 others.

Realtors try to stay alive

FOUR TEAMS AT THE bottom of the heap fight for survival at the start of the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup wildcard phase today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Air21, denied outright passage into the quarterfinals by Coca-Cola in a playoff Sunday, faces Sta. Lucia Realty at 4:40 p.m. while Talk 'N Text and Barangay Ginebra tangle in the other match at 7:35 p.m.

With the four carrying over their record in the classification, tailender Sta. Lucia, with a 4-12 record, needs to sweep its wildcard assignments to gain a playoff for a quarterfinal berth.

The Express and the defending champion Gin Kings have the edge with their 7-9 records while the Phone Pals follow at 6-10.

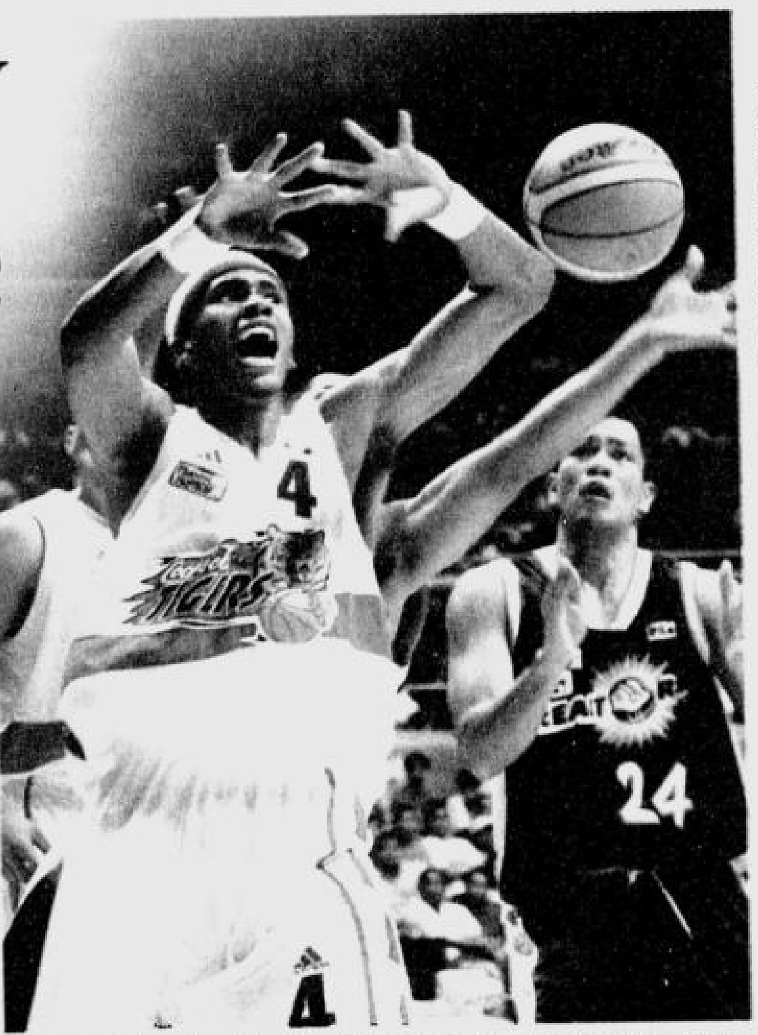
Talk 'N Text, which ended its classification campaign by snapping a six-game slide at the expense of the Coca-Cola Tigers, has a fighting chance should the Express and Kings continue their losing ways.

Red Bull, Alaska and Coca-Cola have already advanced to the quarterfinals with the third-seeded Bulls meeting the winner of the wildcard phase in a best-of-five series.

On a three-week Meanwhile, Eugene Tejada of Purefoods has started to move his hips as sensation on his lower extremities improved by the day, according to Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

June Navarro

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Air21
7:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Ginebra



RAFI Reavis (left) and the Coca-Cola Tigers clinched the last outright quarterfinal slot, leaving Sta. Lucia and three others to go through the wildcard phase.

PDI FILE

SPORTSWATCH

Jewelers favored in MVBA Visayas finals

CEBU CITY—UNDEFEATED AND TOP SEED M. LHUILLIER KWARTA Padala-Cebu Jewelers and second seed Cebu Landmaster-Toledo begin their best-of-three Visayas Division Finals in the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference today at the New Cebu City Coliseum. The Jewelers won all their eight games in the elimination round. On the other hand, the Landmaster quintet won five of eight games to earn the second seeding. PacMan swept the top seeded Iligan Archangels, 2-0, last week to claim the first finals seat in the league backed by ML Kwarta Padala, Cokaliong Shipping Lines, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Gameface.ph, Panasonic, Molten and Sulpicio Lines. The MVBA games may be seen over UHF station Cebu Catholic Television Network (CCTN-47) and all its cable affiliates. Meanwhile, the visiting San Beda Red Lions will play the University of Cebu Webmasters in the curtain-raiser at 4 p.m.

Castillo, Alcala near JVC title duel

FANCIED GELITA CASTILLO AND MALVINNE ANN ALCALA FASHIONED OUT straight-set victories to remain on track for a possible title showdown in the JVC Open Junior Badminton Championships at Sta. Rosa in Laguna over the weekend. Castillo yielded only 10 points en route to dominating Michelle Cruz, 21-7, 21-3, and arranging a semis clash with Centro Atletico teammate Jessalam Sampuma in the 14-under girls' singles. Sampuma held off Bulacan's Kathleen Balatbat, 21-16, 21-19. Alcala, on the other hand, bundled out Krisnin Yang, 21-17, 21-12, to set up a semis duel with PNP's Abegail Garcia, a 21-16, 21-13 winner over Pia Fabros in the event sponsored by JVC (Phils.), Inc. and organized by IMG. The tournament is backed by Victor, exclusively distributed by Pcome Industrial Sales, Bingo Bonanza, Snickers Chocolate, Hanford, L-Time Studio, Lactacyd, Alaska, Pinoy Exchange, Pioneer Life, Accel, PowerSmash, The STAR, Sunbolt and Rudy Project.

Top Olivarez tennis seeds advance

TOP SEED SHANINE OLIVAREZ BLASTED PATRICIA PAEZ, 6-0, 6-0, YESTERDAY TO advance in the girls' 12-under semifinals against Akiko de Guzman in the Olivarez Age-Group tennis championships at the Olivarez Tennis Center. The fourth-seeded De Guzman downed Marinel Ferry, 6-2, 6-2. In other matches, second seed Samantha Coyiuto blanked Treena Quirrer, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Pia Tamayo, who scored a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Ma. Raisa Opulencia. In the unisex 10-under class, top seed Mark Escares downed Bryan Viray, 6-2, 6-1, to advance in the semifinals against Jurence Mendoza, who beat Joachim Samson, 6-2, 6-3, while third seed Claudio Canlas rallied past Brysl Libao, 6-1, 3-6, (10-8). In the boys' 18-under division, top seed Leyan Moncera defeated Von Anthony Dellaban, 6-3, 6-0, to advance in the quarterfinals against Lucien Calman, who rallied past James Karl Canete, 2-6, 6-4, (10-6).

GCAP derby sets 65 fights

ALL EYES WILL BE ON THE SAGUPAAN COMPLEXOR 3000 ENTRY OF PATRICK Antonio in today's staging of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby at San Juan Coliseum, with 65 quality matches on tap. Antonio, fresh from winning two bigtime derbies in Galleria de Mandaue in Cebu and Gilhungan Cockpit in Negros Occidental, will field his multi-winner in a bid to wrest leadership in the GCAP Cocker of the Year race. With two more GCAP derbies left before the Cocker of the Year is finally known, the top ten contenders—Jun Topacio, Antonio, Rep. Butch Pichay, Rey Briones, ASF Group, Gerry Ramos, Louie Cua, Benjie Lim, Pol Estrellado and Boy Royo—are going all out for the coveted title. Meanwhile, it's all systems go for the SJC 9-Cock International Derby on June 5, 7 and 9. As of yesterday, confirmed entries with cockhouse reservations have reached 104.

NCA International Derby semis today

MORE THAN 50 FIGHTS BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COCKERS are on tap today in the semifinal round of the NCA International 8-cock derby at the 15,000-seat Roligon Mega Cockpit. World Slasher Cup 2005 champ Joe Wolcott of Georgia and partner Jun Santiago posted two hard-earned win with their entry Firefly 13 RM. Also with two wins were Colorado Mulawin VGB (Frank Berin), Super Pacman (Manny Pacquiao), Makati Col. Anniversary June 7 (Rudy Salud and V. Mercado), Win Pill (Art Atayde), Wild Wings (R. Puno) and Bullpit JCT Sabong (Frank Guera). Long shot entries also scored with Ahon Mamamayan and Mt. Panamao entries of Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina finishing with 2 and 1.5 points respectively. The final round (4-cock) sizzles on Friday, June 2. For details, call 852-9812, 833-1638 and 851-2275.

Espiritu cops CSI crown

FORMER ASIAN AND LOCAL tour king Victor Espiritu sprinted his way to victory in the fifth leg of the Philamlife Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) Criterium Race and ran away with the overall crown in the centerpiece men's elite category in San Fernando, Pampanga over the weekend. Espiritu held off Bernard Luzon for his second leg victory in the five-stage circuit presented by Philpost. The 28-year-old Espiritu scored 37 points in San Fernando and wound up with 129-point total to beat Luzon by 18 points in their duel in the event sponsored by Pagcor, PCSO and PLDT. Luzon finished with 111 points while Lloyd Reynante pooled 66 points to end up third in the event backed by Aktivade Thirst Quencher, Monterey, PhilCycling, Partas, Speed Detergent Bar and Powder, Satellite Cable Max, Encash, the Philippine Sports Commission and media partners NU 107 and YES FM.

China volleybelles whip RP

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE CHINESE, TO PUT IT QUITE BLUNTLY, HARDLY felt challenged.

In less than an hour, China crushed the Philippines, 25-11, 25-14, 25-17, to claim their second straight title in the 2006 Asian Women's Club volleyball championship yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"Maybe this was the easiest (match)," said Chinese coach Wang Baoquan. "I just told the team we must do our best in every game."

Hammering out 52 kills, China was crowned as virtual champions after sweeping all their six matches on the penultimate day of the single round-robin competition.

And it looked like the Chinese couldn't wait to finish off their rivals as they wrapped the match up in just 54 minutes, the shortest match in the week-long tourney.

"Our team is very tired, we had 28 games in the last two months," said Baoquan, adding that his squad will take a break before competing again in December.

Coach Constante Reyes admitted that the Philippine crew, who came up with only 23 kills, were intimidated by the taller Chinese.

"The players were tense that's why we had a lot of errors," noted Reyes. "Even if we're not playing against the national teams, they feel inferior versus Japan and China."

Earlier, Japan notched up its second victory with a 25-21, 25-20, 25-22 decision versus the cellar-dwelling Indonesia.

Yin Na finished with a match-high 15 spikes as China easily cruised in the first two sets.

The Philippines, though, displayed glimpses of brilliance behind collegiate standout Mary Jean Balse.

Puyat, Yee lead in Asian Juniors

MARCEL PUYAT AND MIKO YEE sparked a strong start by Filipino campaigners in the team competition in yesterday's first round of the The Jakarta Asian Junior golf championships at the Damai Indah Golf and Country Club in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Puyat scored a 2-over-par 74 while Yee carded a 76 for a 150 aggregate that pushed them ahead of Taiwan by one and Thailand by two.

Puyat and Yee were also running second and third in the individual category behind Jirapat Pattranavik of Thailand (73).

The girls' competitions start today with Dottie Ardina leading the RP campaign.

Meanwhile, local kids see action in the culmination of the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the newly renovated Player course of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Ninety five players are going for the six divisions titles for boys and girls in the two-day event sponsored by Samsung, Philippine Airlines, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Pagcor serving as the eighth and final leg of the summer series.

The final leg of the Tour is also supported by Callaway, Titleist, Mizuno, La Jolla, Taylor Made, Wilson, Ping, Auto Magic, Unilever, MCCI Air Liquid, INQUIRER Golf and Michael Guy.

Members of the RP contingent will use the tourney as a final tuneup for their participation in the Junior World championships next month.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Maximum Impact (5), Golden Vision (7), Lord Elgene (6), Spark (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Magliiw (4), Ikaw Pagasa Ko (7), Patutina (1), Wynona Raider (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Real Black (4), Sharp Cookie (2), Hok Kee Hok (6), Irish Connection (1)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Speed Bullet (8), Clear Stone (9), Paminsanminsan (7), Reporter (3), Gemstone (5)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Noor (3), Best In Class (3), Pirouette (4), Strong Colony (6)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Western Legend (9), Little Girl (1), Truly Impressive (3), Blitzkrieg (12), Classic Royale (7)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Morning Nell (9), Letshaveaparty (2), Formidable Jaeda (10), Mesmerize (3), Lady Cathy (7)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Angel Eyes (10), Brenda Starr (6), Playing Cool (5), All Powerful/Collective Dreams (9), Pulilan Beauty/Kalashnikov (1), Empire Lady (8)

'RP football alive and kicking'

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation was on the phone yesterday to say that reports on the death of football in the Philippines were grossly exaggerated.

Not exactly sounding like Mark Twain, he said claims on the decayed state of the game here, as explained by several concerned sectors, were both unfair and dreadful.

Football in the Philippines, contrary to what critics say, is alive and kicking, he explained.

He said it's a lot better than when he took over as national football agency head five years ago.

A lot more people are playing the game now in different venues all over the country, he added.

He wrote this letter to present a bright picture of the game he loves best:

***

Dear Mr. Trinidad:

We hope the bad name given us by your May 29, 2006 article ("Soccer: Look who's betraying the Filipino Youth") finds some restitution with this letter finding print in its entirety in your next column.

While the article is cleverly written to avoid legal tussles, the reader is led to believe that Philippine Football continues on its way to death even if FIFA gives us money because the past PFF and present PFF President are putting that money in their pockets.

Firstly, allow us to say that FIFA has been and continues to conduct a yearly financial audit on the $250,000 given annually to each of its over 200 members. A budget is also required and a comparison made by FIFA between budget and actual. This comparison prevents any blatant diversion of funds from what is actually intended. For your perusal, we have enclosed a report for the PFF Congress, which includes a Financial Report.

Secondly, both the past and the present president of the Philippine Football Federation have been giving time and energy to the management and development of the game without any compensation. They have in fact voluntarily donated to the PFF most of what they have received from per diems received in attending international meetings, all because of their dedication and passion for Football.

Thirdly, because of the programs designed and implemented through the FIFA financial assistance, more football is being played in many parts of the country by a lot more players, especially at the grassroots level. Certainly not more than many South American and European or even Asean countries, but surely substantially more than before the start of the FIFA assistance 6-7 years ago. More coaching, refereeing and administration courses have been organized, more provincial, regional and national competitions are conducted; more international participations done by our national teams and better results achieved. For your perusal, we have enclosed copies of our more recent monthly bulletins to substantiate our claims.

Lastly, the task of bringing Philippine Football to the levels of even the Asian powers alone will take a lifetime. The amounts needed are far beyond the amount provided by FIFA. To say that Philippine Football has not improved at all from the days prior to FIFA aid is to keep a blind eye to what is happening in Muntinlupa—Las Piñas—Parañaque, Marikina, Quezon City, Cebu, Davao, Mt. Province, Bicol, Quezon, Tarlac, Bukidnon, Zamboanga, Iloilo, Negros, Masbate, Lanao, Misamis, Agusan, Surigao and all areas where grassroots football has sprung and exploded in the past years. From 12 provincial associations in the '90s, the PFF now has 28 regular members, with more applying. If the PFF is guilty of anything, it is perhaps guilty of not advertising enough.

Thank you for your genuine concern for Sports.

JUAN MIGUEL G. ROMUALDEZ
President
Philippine Football Federation

NADAL: It's special and important to me. AP

FRENCH OPEN

Nadal crowned king of clay

PARIS—KING OF CLAY RAFAEL NADAL PASSED Guillermo Vilas and began his pursuit of a second successive French Open trophy.

Nadal earned his 54th consecutive win on clay Monday, breaking the Open era record he shared with Vilas by beating Robin Soderling of Sweden, 6-2, 7-5, 6-1, in the first round at Roland Garros.

"It's special," Nadal said. "Fifty-four victories, it's very, very difficult. It's a lot of tournaments, a lot of matches. It's important for me."

With Vilas sitting in the second row, the No. 2-seeded Nadal overcame a 4-2 deficit in the 68-minute second set, then pulled away. After the match, Vilas presented Nadal with a trophy—a cutaway sample showing the multiple layers of a clay court.

"If I had to lose that record, I'm pleased I was losing it to somebody like that," Vilas said. "It's a pleasure to see him play and fighting. It's very good for tennis. He will inspire a new generation of players."

Gusty wind kicked up clouds of clay and light rain occasionally fell on a chilly afternoon, contributing to plenty of sloppy play. But for the second day in a row, there were no major upsets.

Former champions Gaston Gaudio and Juan Carlos Ferrero beat qualifiers in straight sets. Two-time runner-up Kim Clijsters overcame a 5-2 deficit in the second set and three set points to beat Virginie Razzano of France 6-0, 7-6 (4). Seeded second, Clijsters committed five double-faults and 32 unforced errors.

Nadal, who won the title in his French Open debut last year, improved to 18-0 on clay this year. His last defeat on the surface came on April 8, 2005, against Igor Andreev of Russia.

During the streak, 39 of his victories have come in straight sets. But seldom has Nadal been forced to contend with such a swirling wind.

"One of the worst days for play on clay," he said. "I was very happy, because I started playing very well in spite of the conditions."

Argentina's Gaudio showed the steady baseline game that helped him win the championship two years ago as he beat Croatian qualifier Roko Karanusic, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

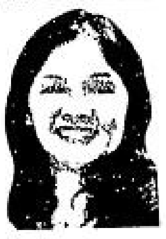
The No. 10-seeded Gaudio has yet to win a tournament this year and arrived in Paris with a three-match losing streak. But he faced little resistance from Karanusic, the 180th-ranked Croatian who was playing in his first tour-level match of the year.

"It was quite easy to win for me," Gaudio said. "It's the first time he plays in Roland Garros, so I made the most of that opportunity."

Karanusic's career tour record fell to 1-12, including 0-5 in majors. *AP*

Fiba suspension lifted soon?

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

AS SOON AS THE Cathay Pacific flight (903) from Hong Kong touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, my hibernating cellphone instantly came to life.

Obviously, so many interesting developments had occurred while I was away covering the Adidas Superstar Camp in Beijing.

For example, I was told that former PBA governor Elmer Yanga had been appointed UAAP Commissioner (and former PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, his NCAA counterpart, but this I already knew even before I left); that the BAP office at the Rizal Memorial Complex in Vito Cruz had been padlocked by the PSC (a confirmation of what I had gotten wind of while in Beijing); that Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero is back from a two-month vacation in the United States, his homecoming marked by a victory over Montaña in the PBL semifinal round; and many other bits and pieces.

* * *

The big news, the good news that overshadowed all the others, is the forthcoming lifting of the Fiba ban on the Philippines. According to my unimpeachable source, this will happen during the Fiba-Asia election of officers scheduled this coming June.

BAP president Joey Lina, he related, has been quietly working, conferring with Fiba officials in Hong Kong and Malaysia and was assured that the suspension will be lifted soon. Even if the BAP is not reinstated by the POC.

My source predicted that incumbent Fiba Asia secretary general Dato Yeoh Choo Hock will retain his post, "even if a controversial NSA president has sworn to make sure that his Indian bet would win the coveted position."

Informed of this forecast, my source said Dato Yeoh merely laughed it off.

The BAP, he added, has already charted its plan of action when the ban is lifted.

"Top secret!" he bellowed, when I tried to squeeze it out of him.

* * *

From what I gathered, Joey Lina had informed some members of Pilipinas Basketball about the impending lifting of the ban, which may not prove to be such a smart move.

Consequently, the group reactivated after a long silence following the rejection in Korea under the instigation of PBA commissioner Noli Eala, who rounded up basketball stakeholders all over the country for a summit meeting.

The last I heard, Pilipinas Basketball was looking for a president. Two names were mentioned: Manny V. Pangilinan and Henry Cojuangco.

That's the big news. I can't wait for the ban to be lifted this June. I want to know who'll get the credit, if ever, and what will happen next.

* * *

In the face of ridicule from some colleagues, I continued to write about the exploits of mountaineer Dale Abenojar en route to the summit of Mt. Everest. I was perhaps one of the very few—if not the only one giving updates on his expedition.

Nobody believed he made it to the top ahead of the others, perhaps not even myself, although I wrote about this claim, because there was no evidence to prove this.

Even now, while certain quarters have accepted his claim, there are still those who suspect its veracity, despite the evidence that he has presented.

Yesterday, I tried to touch base with Dale's staunchest supporter, Jake Aspiras, whose faith in him never wavered amidst the skepticism of all. As of presstime, there was still no reply.

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SPORTS

Miami torches Detroit

Wade stars as Heat send Pistons on the brink

MIAMI—DWAYNE WADE SCORED 12 OF HIS 31 POINTS IN the final quarter when the Miami Heat pulled away from Detroit for an 89-78 win and a 3-1 lead over the two-time defending NBA Eastern Conference champion Pistons on Monday.

With the outcome decided, Wade strutted toward a swarm of teammates with his right fist clenched and a victorious smile lighting his sweat-drenched face.

"I'm just a kid. There's a kid inside of me who loves to play the game of basketball and is getting the opportunity to on the highest level," Wade said. "And I'm just trying to do my best job at it. Like I said, I'm just a kid in a candy store right now."

A year ago, two chances at unseating Detroit weren't enough, as the Pistons came back from 3-2 down to beat the Heat in seven games. Now, though, the Heat get three cracks at breaking through—and, unlike in 2005, they have a healthy Wade and Shaquille O'Neal to carry them.

"We don't want to get too high and mighty," O'Neal said. "Job's not done yet."

O'Neal had 21 points—albeit with a 5-for-15 night at the foul line—and nine rebounds, while Udonis Haslem added 16 points for the Heat.

Tayshaun Prince had 15 points and Chauncey Billups added 14 for the Pistons, who'll host Game 5 on Wednesday.

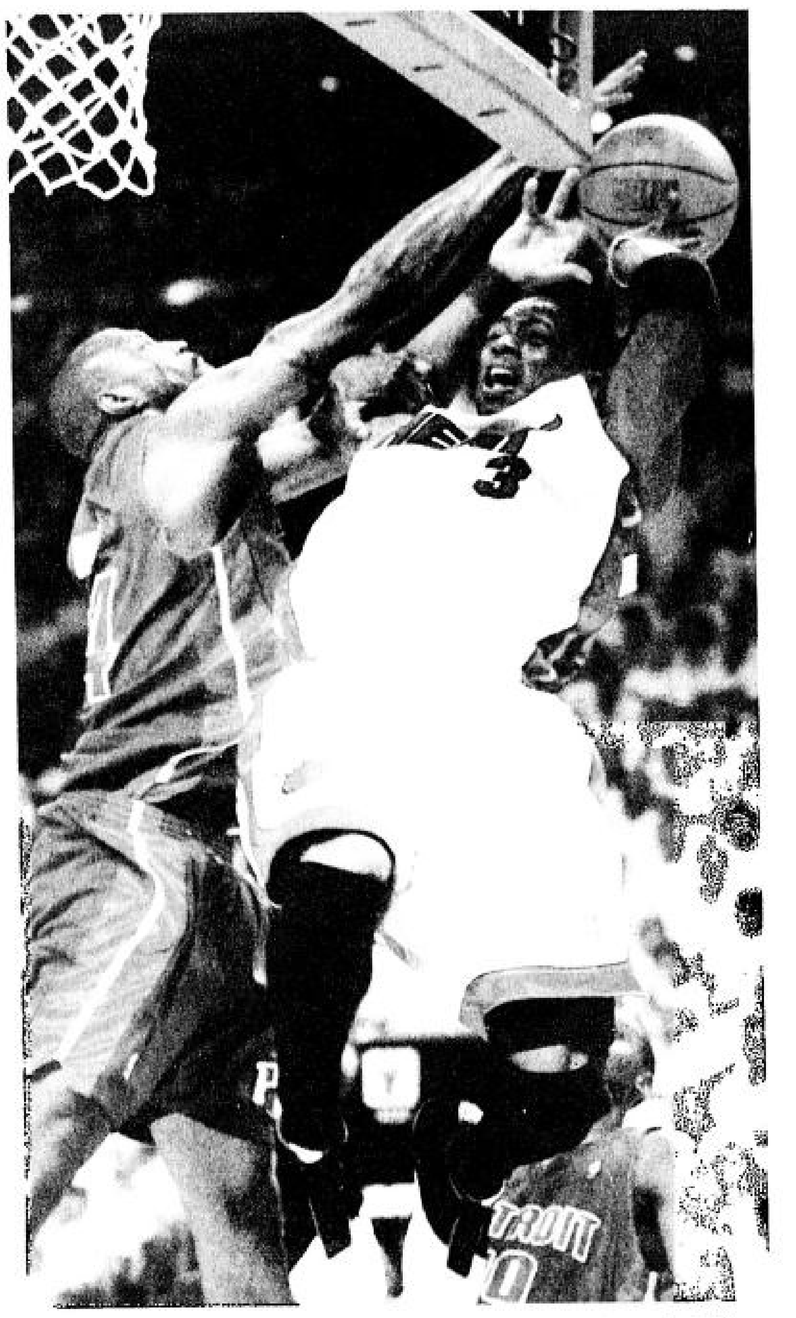
"We've got a lot of fight in us," Billups said. "We have been down 3-1 before—not against a team as good as the Heat, though. And they're playing great, man. You've got to give it to them. They are. They're playing great ball."

Teams taking 3-1 leads in the penultimate round—either the conference finals or division finals, as they were once known—have prevailed 40 times in 43 previous opportunities, and each of the last 16 teams with a 3-1 cushion has gone on to reach the NBA Finals.

The Pistons answered with a 29-11 run over a 7-minute stretch—capped by Rasheed Wallace's 3-pointer with 5:04 left in the third quarter—for a 57-53 lead. But Detroit managed only three more points in the quarter, and Wade hit a pair of free throws with 1.5 seconds left to put Miami up 62-60 entering the fourth.

Detroit never led again, but afterward, its confidence still seemed unflappable.

"I'll take this five," Rasheed Wallace proclaimed, "over any five in the world." *AP*



EVEN the toughest defense, like the one Detroit's Dale Davis (left) puts up, couldn't stop Miami superstar Dwyane Wade. AP

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WORLD CUP VENGEANCE

Brazil president: 'We want France for final opponent'

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Monday that his country wants to face France in the World Cup final to "get even" for its loss in the 1998 tournament.

"Everybody's saying Brazil will be in the final," Silva said during his bi-weekly radio show "Coffee with the President." "We have the best players."

Silva—an ardent soccer fan—met last week with French President Jacques Chirac and said the two discussed a possible rematch of the 1998 World Cup final, when host France shocked Brazil 3-0 to win its first world title.

"I told Jacques Chirac that it's important for Brazil to go to the final with France so Brazil can get even for what happened with us in '98," Silva joked.

Brazil, winner of a record five World Cup titles, is favored to win again in next month's tournament in Germany.

"We have to do what we know how to do: play soccer," Silva said. "Put on a show, and we can come back with the trophy." *AP*

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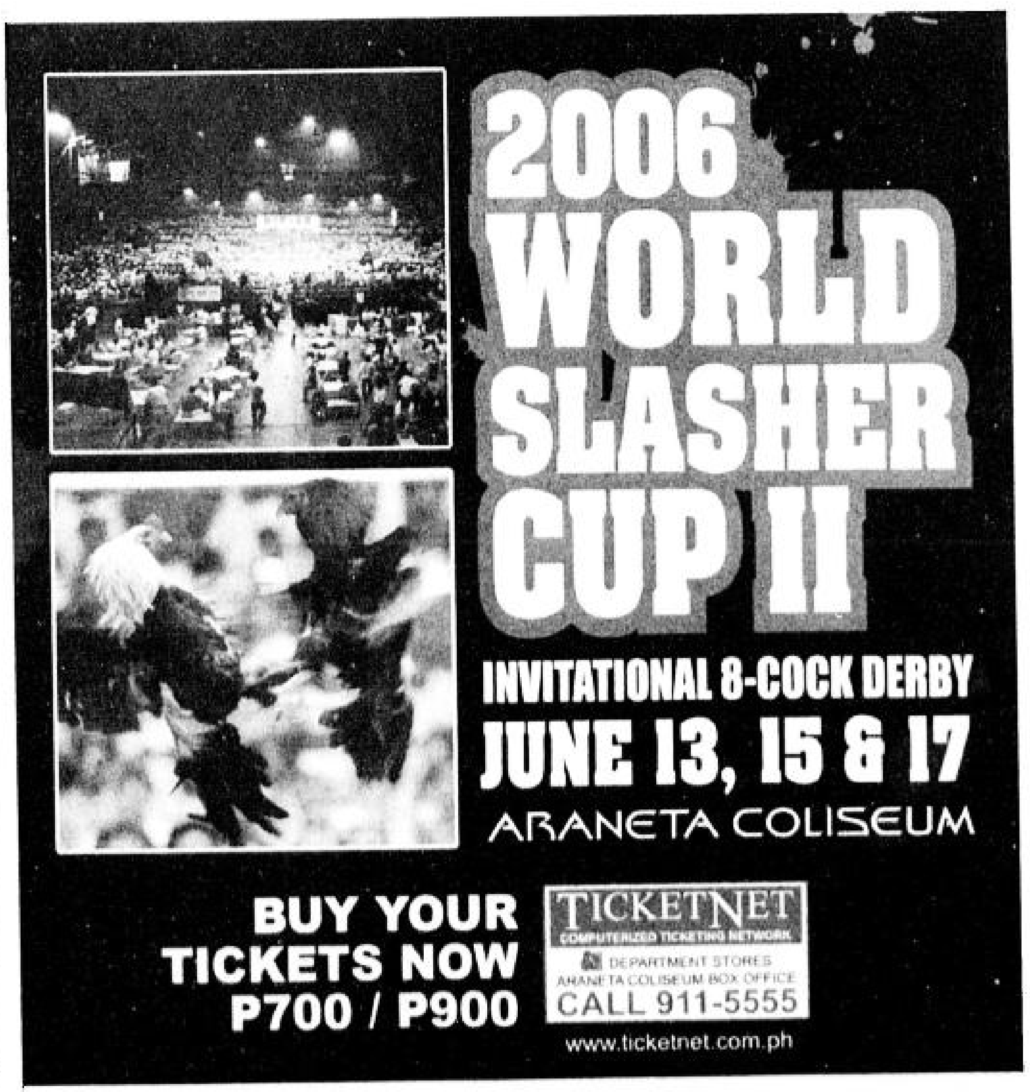

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4th biggest debut of all time

DIRECTOR Brett Ratner's (third from left) "X-Men" has bested the opening-day takes of the first two made by Bryan Singer.

LOS ANGELES—"X-MEN: THE LAST Stand," the final installment of a Marvel comics trilogy, grossed $107 million in its first weekend in North America, making it the fourth biggest debut of all time, according to estimates released Sunday.

It opened in 3,690 theaters.

Box office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co. said "The Last Stand" easily pushed "Da Vinci Code" into second place at the box office, only a week after the religious thriller took in $77M for its first weekend.

In the all-time rankings for the United States and Canada, "The Last Stand" came behind the 2002 movie "Spider Man," which opened with $114.8M; last year's "Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith," the sixth feature film in the "Star Wars" saga, at $108.4M; and "Shrek 2" at $108M in 2004.

The new movie, based on the Marvel comic book series about a band of mutants, has been given rave reviews. It follows the "X Men" debut movie in 2000, which earned $54 million on its first weekend, and the 2003 "X2: X-Men United" which launched with $86M.

It stars Hugh Jackman as the heroic Wolverine and Ian McKellen as the evil Magneto. It was directed by Brett Ratner and was first shown at last week's Cannes film festival.

In the Philippines, "The Last Stand" made P15.3 million on its first day, making it the year's biggest opening day so far.

A total of 149,764 admissions were recorded at 181 theaters. Thus, "The Last Stand" outgrossed "M:I3" which opened with P12.7M and "The Da Vinci Code," with P14.1M (it wasn't shown in SM cinemas because of its R-18 rating). *AFP*

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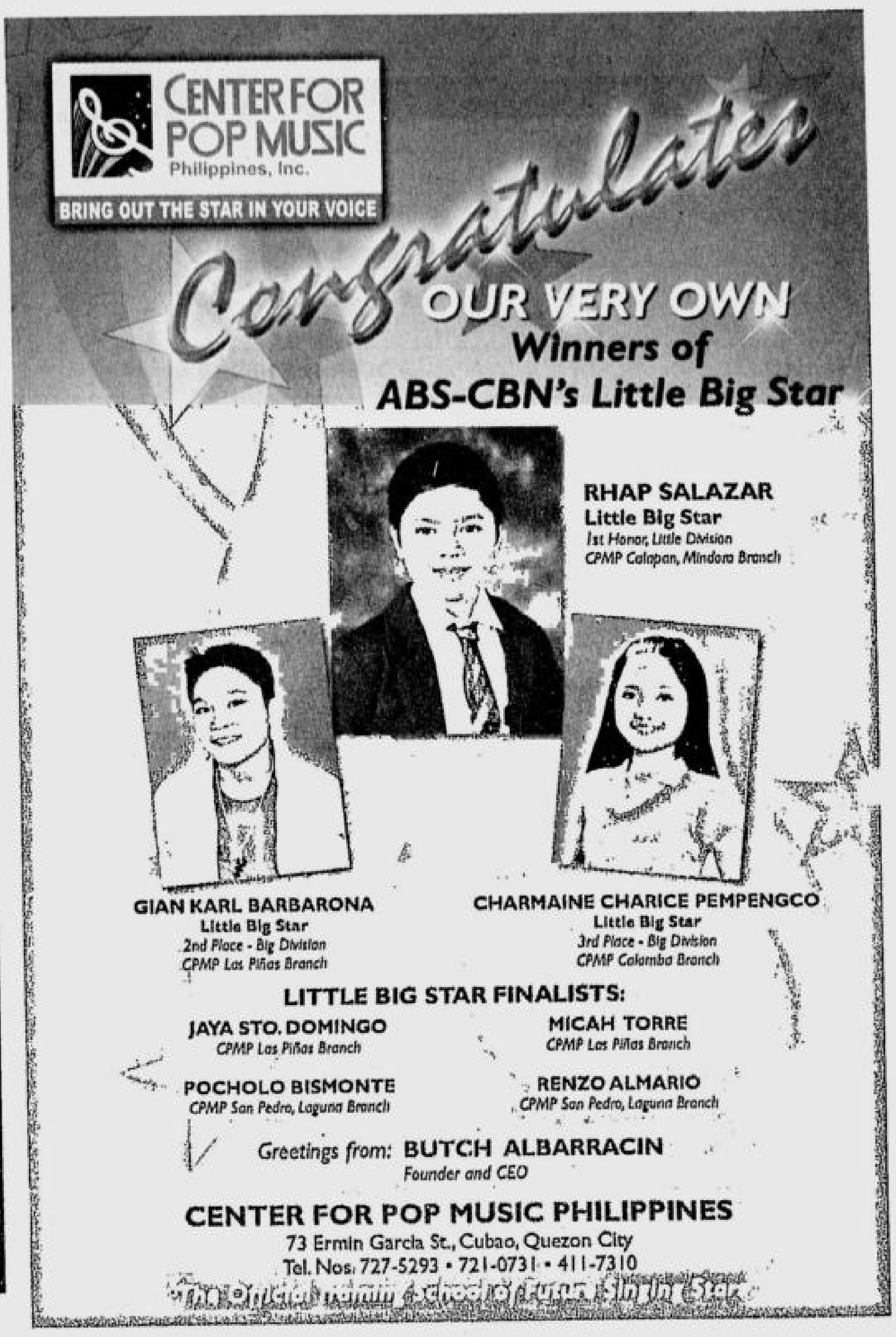

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CPMP Las Piñas Branch

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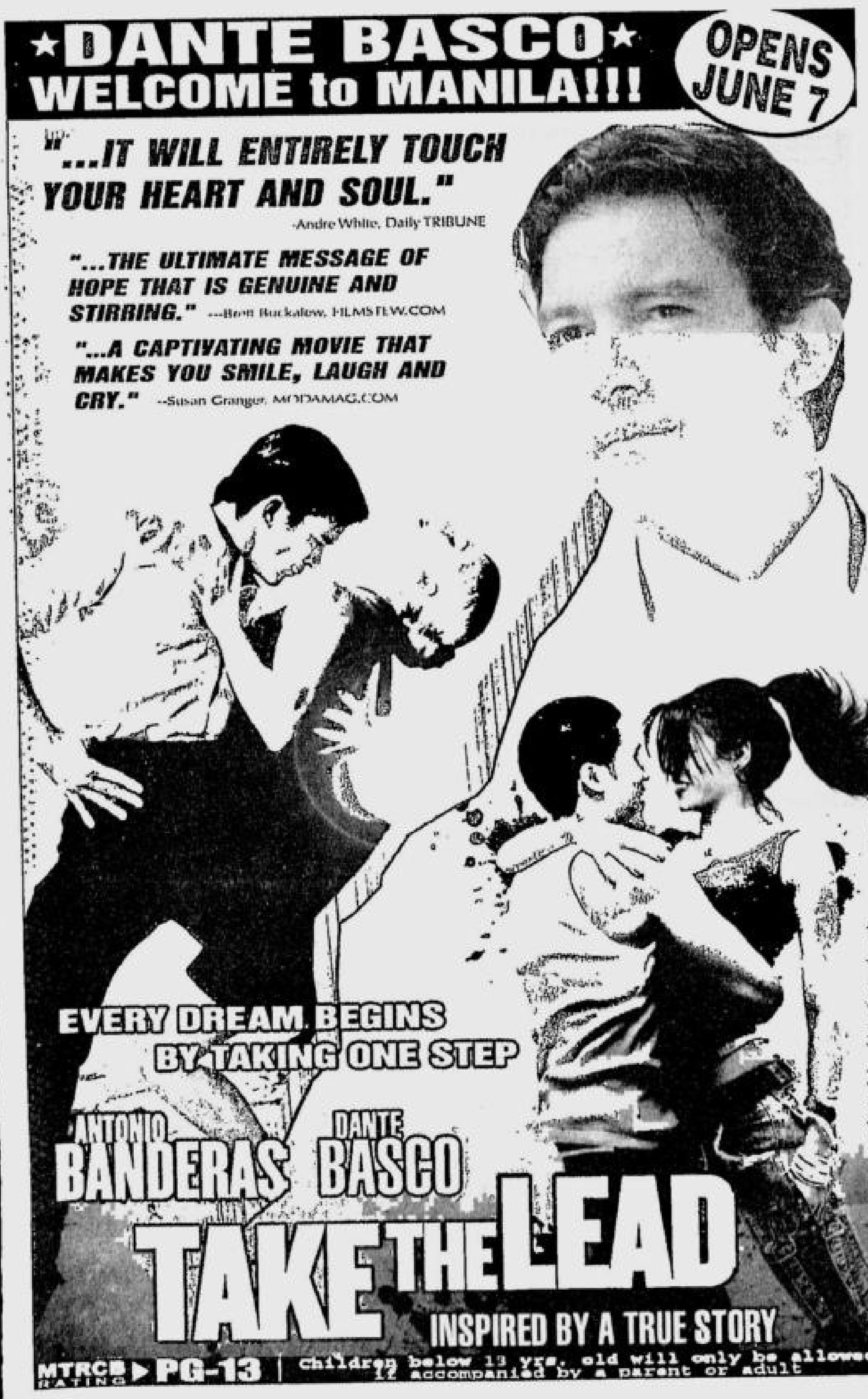

★DANTE BASCO★
WELCOME to MANILA!!!
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"...IT WILL ENTIRELY TOUCH YOUR HEART AND SOUL." -Andre White, Daily TRIBUNE
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TAKE THE LEAD
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MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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cherry pie picache john prats polo ravales jiro manio
christian vazquez luis alandy mike tan lj reyes glaiza de castro
Manay Po!
A film by joel c. lamangan, dgpi
Also starring:
giselle sanchez ic mendoza charles christianson theo bernados jim pebangco
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IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE
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REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
www.regalfilms.com/manaypo
MTRCB RATING PG-13
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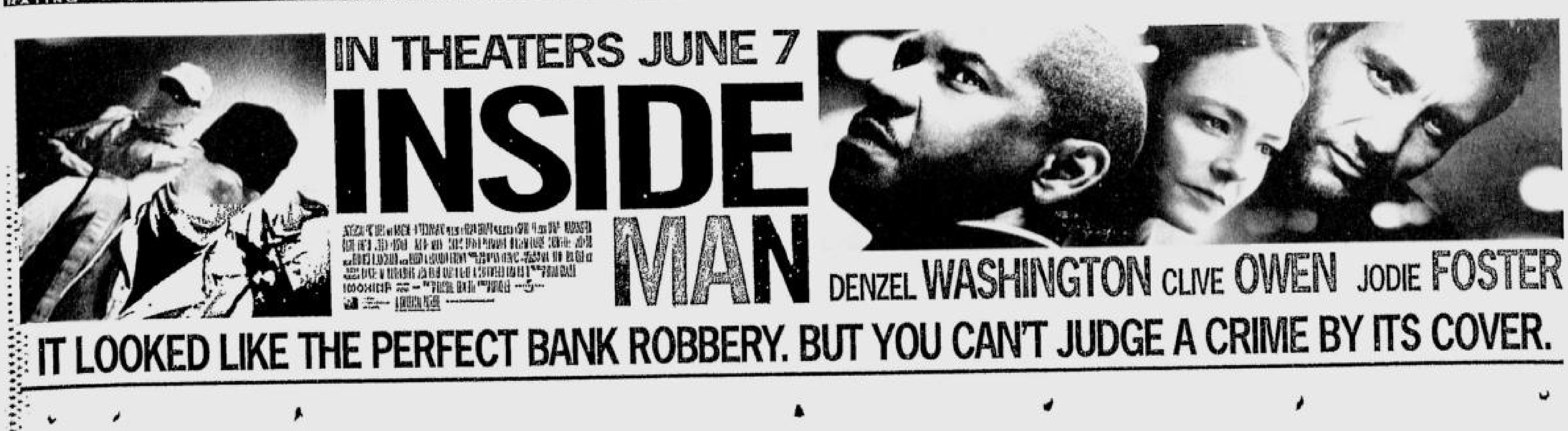

IN THEATERS JUNE 7
INSIDE MAN
DENZEL WASHINGTON CLIVE OWEN JODIE FOSTER
IT LOOKED LIKE THE PERFECT BANK ROBBERY. BUT YOU CAN'T JUDGE A CRIME BY ITS COVER.

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX
2 MANAY PO
3 X-MEN 3
4 CHAOS
5 ALL ABOUT LOVE
6 BENCH WARMERS
7 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
8 THE DA VINCI CODE
9 OVER THE HEDGE
10 X-MEN 3

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 BENCH WARMERS
2 X-MEN 3
3 CHAOS
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
5 MANAY PO
6 ALL ABOUT LOVE
7 THE BIG WHITE

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 BENCH WARMERS
3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
4 MANAY PO
5 OVER THE HEDGE
6 CHAOS
7 X-MEN 3
8 ALL ABOUT LOVE

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 X-MEN 3
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 MANAY PO
5 THE DA VINCI CODE
6 BENCH WARMERS

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 X-MEN 3
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 X-MEN 3
4 BENCH WARMERS

WILLIAMS
HUNTER
WOODY HARRELSON
ALISON LOHMAN
BIG

ExclusiveSCREENING

now showing at
Robinsons Movieworld
ERMITA

starring:
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Woody Harrelson and Alison Lohman

synopsis:
This is story about a man a travel agent Paul Barnes, selling dreams in a financial nightmare Up to his neck in debt and snow, with a foul-mouthed wife, Margaret Barnes suffering from Tourette's syndrome Paul hopes to solve his problems with the help of his missing brother Raymond He tries to cash in on his missing brother's Life insurance policy of US$1 million However he comes face to face with Ted Walters, a tough young insurance investigator Ted denies Paul's request as Raymond has only been missing for five years, not long enough to pronounce him deceased

MTRCB Rating: GP

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 X-MEN 3
3 MANAY PO
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 BENCH WARMERS

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 X-MEN 3
5 OVER THE HEDGE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 X-MEN 3
5 AQUAMARINE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 X-MEN 3
3 MANAY PO
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 X-MEN 3
4 BENCH WARMERS
5 MANAY PO

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 BENCH WARMERS
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO
4 X-MEN 3
5 THE DA VINCI CODE
6 OVER THE HEDGE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 X-MEN 3
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 BENCH WARMERS
5 OVER THE HEDGE
6 MANAY PO

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1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 X-MEN 3
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 MANAY PO
5 BENCH WARMERS
6 BANDIDAS

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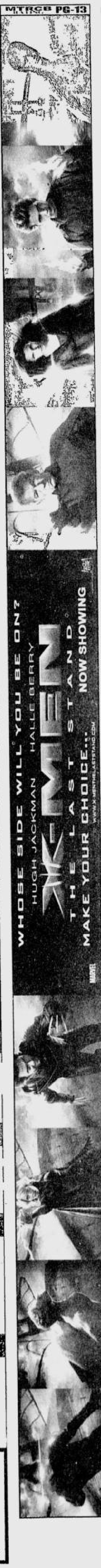

CANNES WINNERS. Best Actresses (from left) Blanca Portillo, Lola Duenas, Penelope Cruz, Best Screenplay winner Spanish director Pedro Almodovar, and Best Actresses Carmen Maura and Yohana Cobo pose with their awards—all for their work on "Volver" at the 59th Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes—on Sunday. AP

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DOLBY) X-MEN 3 *PG13*
2 (DOLBY) BENCHWARMERS *PG13*
3 (DOLBY) FAILURE TO LAUNCH *PG13*
4 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE *R18*

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) CHAOS

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) X-MEN-3
2 (SDDS) THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DTS) ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 GOLD (DTS) X-MEN-3
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CHAOS
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE BENCHWARMERS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FAILURE TO LAUNCH
8 (DOLBY STEREO) OVER THE HEDGE
9 (DOLBY STEREO) POSEIDON
10 (DOLBY STEREO) MANAY PO

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) FAILURE TO LAUNCH
2 (DOLBY) X-MEN-3
3 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
4 (DOLBY) THE BENCHWARMERS

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 MANAY PO
2 (DTS) ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) X-MEN-3
4 THE DA VINCI CODE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DTS) X-MEN-3
4 MANAY PO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
4 (DTS) X-MEN-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 X-MEN-3 / THE DA VINCCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) MANAY PO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1 X-MEN-3
2 MANAY PO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 X-MEN-3
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 MANAY PO

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 (DOLBY) MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) X-MEN-3
4 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) X-MEN-3
2 THE BENCHWARMERS
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 MANAY PO
5 CHAOS

starmall EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE DA VINCI CODE
5 MANAY PO

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1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 MANAY PO
3 RESERVED
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X-MEN-3
4 THE DA VINCI CODE

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 X-MEN-3
3 MANAY PO

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 MISSION IMPOSIBLE-3

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) REINCARNATION
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 (DTS) PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 PLEASE CALL
3 (DTS) X-MEN-3
4 MANAY PO
5 THE DA VINCI CODE

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 X-MEN-3
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

THEATRES

NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

1 X-MEN-3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS EX) X-MEN-3
4 MANAY PO

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 X-MEN-3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-6271

- X-MEN-3
- ALL ABOUT LOVE
- RESERVED
- RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 MANAY PO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Revival and reunion shows click with music buffs

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THESE PAST MONTHS, OUR MAJOR PERFORMING venues have showcased "revival" performances of some of yesteryear's top singing groups. Some of the groups have ceased to be popular, but their nostalgic appeal remains.

Interestingly, even younger music fans have reacted positively, to their "old" songs, proving once again that, on the local show biz scene, what goes around, comes around.

The latest group to retroactively regale Filipino music buffs is The Four Aces. They will sing at The Manila Hotel on June 1, at Clark Expo on June 2, at Araneta Coliseum on June 3, and at Hard Rock Café-Makati on June 4.

The group's membership has changed through the years, but their old hits still draw appreciative listeners—"Tell Me Why," "Three Coins in the Fountain," "A Woman in love," "Strangers in Paradise," and the song most associated with them, "Love Is A Many-Splendored Thing."

The New Minstrels

ON JUNE 16, a Filipino singing group, the New Minstrels is staging its own revival and reunion concert. The well-loved group from the '70s launched the careers of singing stars like **Louie Reyes, Ray-An Fuentes, Eugene Villaluz** and **Ding Mercado**, so their fans can be expected to strongly support the show.

Other local groups like 14K, the Ambivalent Crowd, Music and Magic and the Circus Band should also sing together again, to give their own fans a nostalgic surge!

Award-winning British comedy group

PEEPOLYKUS, an award-winning comedy group from England, will be presented by the British Council in performances in Manila and Cagayan de Oro from June 30 to July 4.

The group's series of one-act comedies, "All in the Timing," dispel stress and depression by portraying a joyfully absurd world where chimps attempt to write Shakespeare, and new languages are improvised.

Peepolykus are known for their brilliant performances and striking visuals, which earned for them a Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival. They work with gags and audience participation gambits that we all recognize, but they do it with a new slant—we are included in the game. For schedules, call 9141011 to 14, ext. 130.

Kevin Spacey is Lex Luthor

TOP thespian **Kevin Spacey** lets his hair down—actually, he shaves it all off—as he plays the quintessential villain, Lex Luthor, in "Superman Returns." Spacey was the first choice to play the evil mastermind.

Director **Bryan Singer** had worked with Spacey previously in "The Usual Suspects," and was so determined to direct him again that he overhauled the movie's entire shooting schedule to take advantage of the actor's six-week "window of opportunity."

'Goldwynisms' galore

BEFORE **Ricky Belmonte, Alma Moreno, Joseph Estrada, Melanie Marquez** and **Keanna Reeves**, there was Hollywood mogul Samuel Goldwyn. Like his Pinoy entertainment colleagues, he was known for his colorful and funny malapropisms—in fact, he started the whole blunderbuss. Some seminar Goldwynisms:

"Directors are always biting the hand that lays the golden egg."

"He's living beyond his means, but he can afford it."

"My wife's hands are so beautiful, I hired a sculptor to make a bust of them."

"I'm never going to write my autobiography as long as I live!"

"You are partly 100 percent right!"

"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on."

"If Roosevelt was alive, he'd turn in his grave!"

"I'm sorry you felt my movie was too blood and thirsty."

"I had a great idea this morning, but I didn't like it."

"My new production will create an excitement that will sweep the country like wildflowers!"

"My latest movie is more than magnificent—it's mediocre!"

"I read part of the book all the way through."

"I don't pay any attention to him—I don't even ignore him."

"I challenge you to give me a frank affirmative answer: Yes or no."

"I can answer you in two words: Im Possible!"

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CINEMA	FILM	RATING
1	X- MEN III	PG13
2	THE DA VINCI CODE	R18

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA	FILM	RATING
3	FAILURE TO LAUNCH	PG13
4	BENCHWARMERS	PG13
5	X-MEN III	PG13

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MUSIC MUSEUM	JUNE 2,3,9,10,16 17,23, 24, & 30 , 2006	NINA in VERY MANILOW	9:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
	JUNE 2&3 ,2006	WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	8:00PM

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THE DA VINCI CODE R18	FAILURE TO LAUNCH	BENCHWARMER
ALL ABOUT LOVE	CHAOS	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-144041

SHANG CINEPLEX

① XMEN 3 MTRCB. PG-13 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00 10:20	③ FAILURE TO LAUNCH MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
② BENCHWARMERS MTRCB. PG-13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	④ THE DA VINCI CODE MTRCB R-18 1:15, 4:20, 7:25, 10:30

PREMIERE THEATRE — CHAOS
Subject to MTRCB Rating

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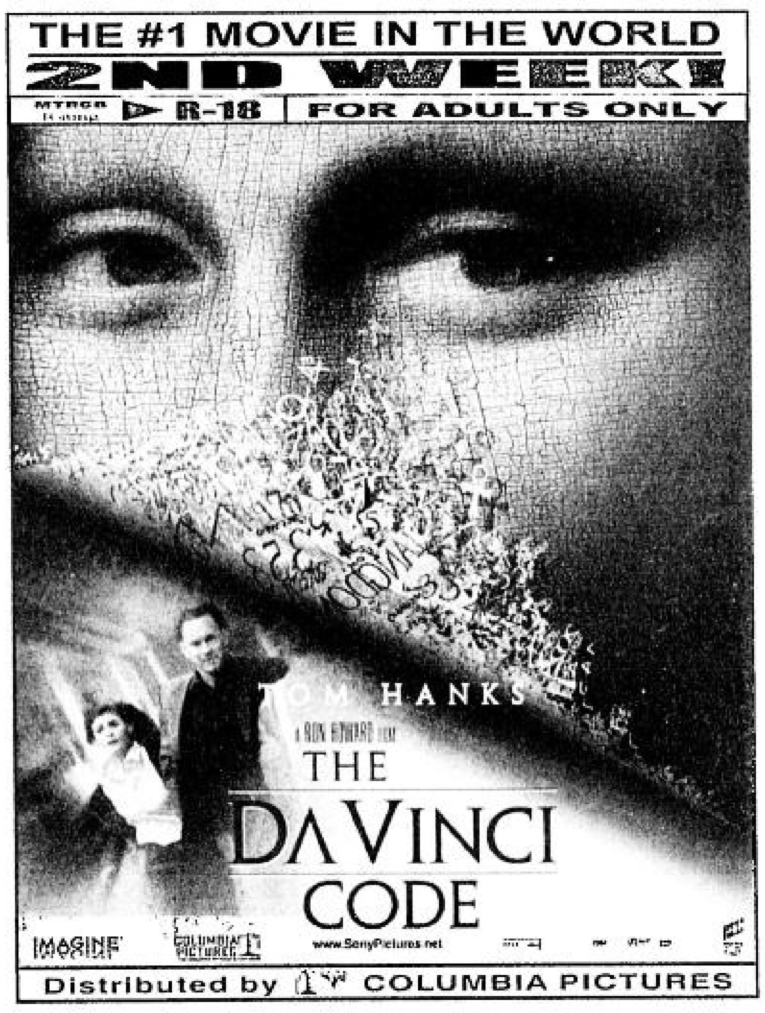

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CINEMA	1	2	3	4
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ALL ABOUT LOVE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 MANAY PO	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 THE BENCHWARMERS	3 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	5 THE DA VINCI CODE	6 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	7 THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX FAILURE TO LAUNCH GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE BENCHWARMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE DA VINCI CODE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH		
	3 THE BENCHWARMERS	4 ALL ABOUT LOVE	5 THE DA VINCI CODE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE BENCHWARMERS	2 ALL ABOUT LOVE	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH		
	3 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 ALL ABOUT LOVE	5 MANAY PO	

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Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

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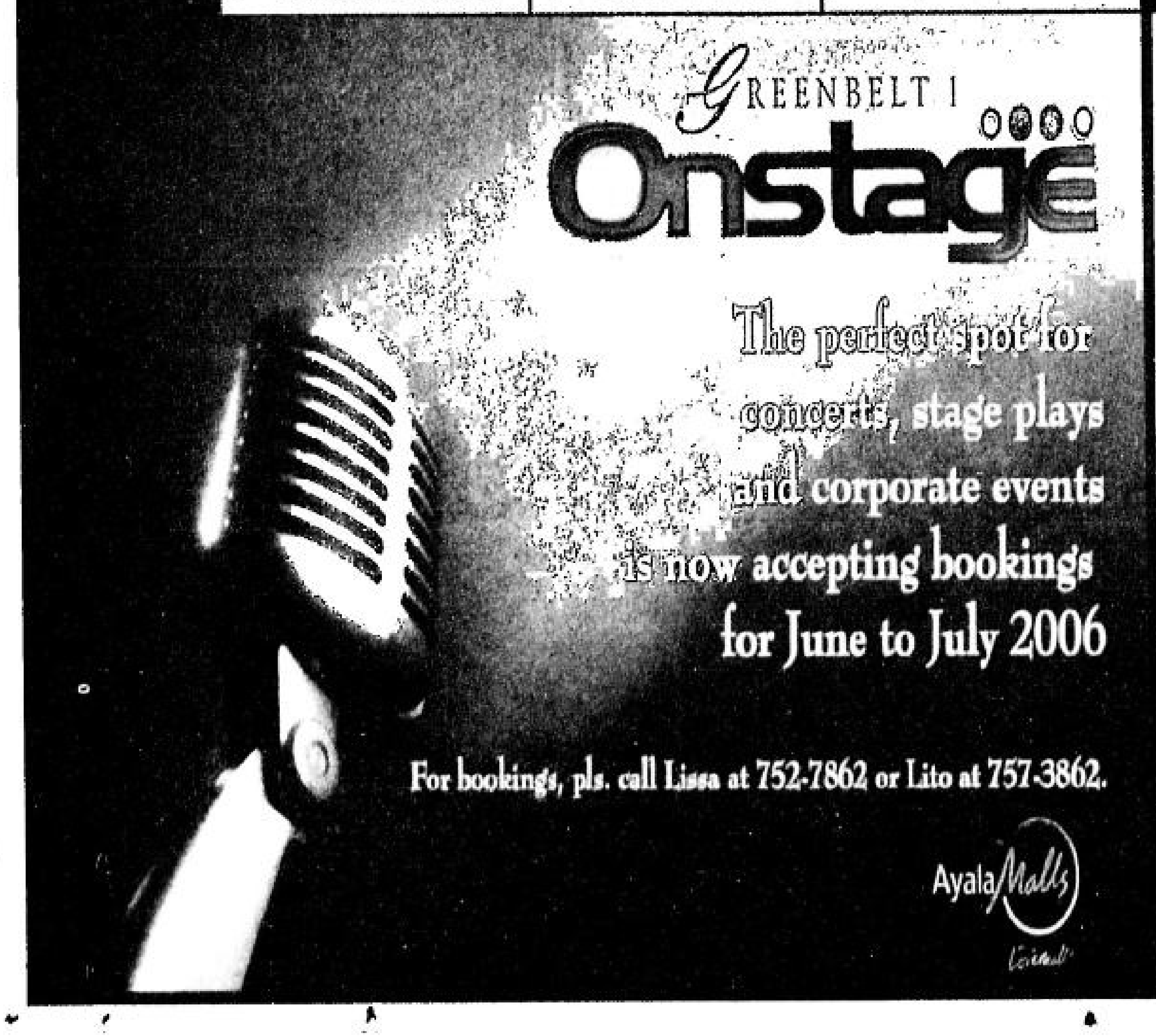

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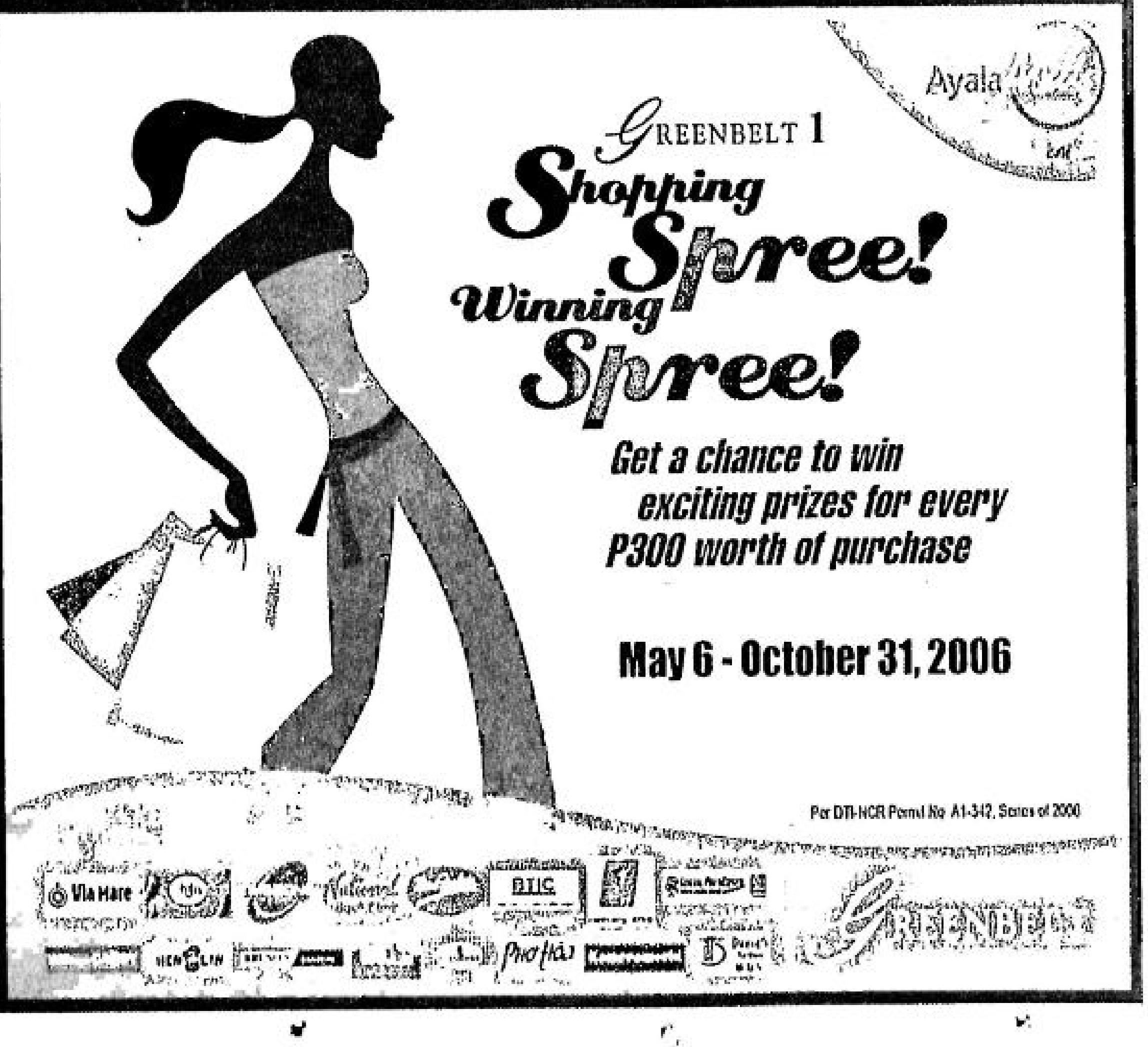

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ALL ABOUT LOVE

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XMEN III

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1. XMEN III
2. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
3. CHAOS
4. BENCHWARMERS
5. OVER THE HEDGE
6. MANAY PO

THE PODIUM

CINEMA 1
FAILURE TO LAUNCH

CINEMA 2
XMEN III

SM NORTH EDSA

1. XMEN III
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. POSEIDON
4. M:I:III
5. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
6. BENCHWARMERS
7. MANAY PO
8. CHAOS

SM CITY BICUTAN

1. XMEN III
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. MANAY PO
4. BENCHWARMERS

SM MEGACINEMA

1. BENCHWARMERS
2. CHAOS
3. M:I:III
4. XMEN III
5. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
6. XMEN III
7. OVER THE HEDGE
8. POSEIDON
9. MANAY PO
10. ALL ABOUT LOVE
11. SILENT HILL
12. REINCARNATION

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

1. XMEN III
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. CHAOS
4. OVER THE HEDGE
5. BENCHWARMERS
6. MANAY PO
7. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
8. M:I:III
9. POSEIDON

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1. BENCHWARMERS
2. OVER THE HEDGE
3. SILENT HILL
4. XMEN III
5. MANAY PO
6. CHAOS
7. XMEN III
8. ALL ABOUT LOVE
9. M:I:III
10. POSEIDON
11. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
12. REINCARNATION

SM CITY DASMARINAS

1. XMEN III
2. MANAY PO
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. M:I:III

SM CITY STA. MESA

1. XMEN III
2. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. BENCHWARMERS
5. MANAY PO
6. POSEIDON
7. OVER THE HEDGE
8. CHAOS
9. M:I:III
10. SILENT HILL

SM CITY MANILA

1. CHAOS
2. POSEIDON
3. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
4. M:I:III
5. OVER THE HEDGE
6. XMEN III
7. ALL ABOUT LOVE
8. MANAY PO
9. SILENT HILL
10. REINCARNATION
11. BENCH WARMERS
12. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

1. XMEN III
2. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
3. CHAOS
4. BENCHWARMERS
5. MANAY PO
6. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

1. XMEN III
2. BENCHWARMERS
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. MANAY PO

SM CITY SUCAT

1. MANAY PO
2. XMEN III
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. M:I:III

movietime NEW MOVIES

ALL ABOUT LOVE

BENCHWARMERS

CHAOS

FAILURE TO LAUNCH

MANAY PO

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO

1. BENCHWARMERS
2. MANAY PO
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. XMEN III

SM CITY MARILAO

1. BENCHWARMERS
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. MANAY PO
4. XMEN III

SM CITY BACOOR

1. SILENT HILL
2. OVER THE HEDGE
3. XMEN III
4. MANAY PO
5. M:I:III
6. ALL ABOUT LOVE
7. BENCHWARMERS
8. POSEIDON

SM CITY BATANGAS

1. M:I:III
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. XMEN III
4. MANAY PO

SM CITY LUCENA

1. XMEN II
2. MANAY PO
3. BENCHWARMERS
4. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY CLARK

NOW OPEN

1. XMEN III
2. POSEIDON
3. M:I:III
4. BENCHWARMERS
5. MANAY PO
6. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1. XMEN III
2. M:I:III
3. POSEIDON
4. MANAY PO
5. BENCHWARMERS
6. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO

1. ALL ABOUT LOVE
2. XMEN III
3. MANAY PO
4. BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY STA. ROSA

1. BENCHWARMERS
2. MANAY PO
3. XMEN III
4. ALL ABOUT LOVE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

1. XMEN III
2. BENCHWARMERS
3. M:I:III
4. POSEIDON
5. MANAY PO
6. AMERICAN SOLDIERS
7. ALL ABOUT LOVE
8. XMEN III

SM CITY ILOILO

1. BENCHWARMERS
2. RESERVED
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. M:I:III
5. MANAY PO
6. XMEN III
7. RESERVED
8. BANDIDAS

SM CITY DAVAO

1. XMEN III
2. SILENT HILL
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. M:I:III
5. MANAY PO
6. BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN

1. BENCHWARMERS
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. MANAY PO
4. XMEN III

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Congratulations! You just won a pair of Mission: Impossible 3 caps from United International Pictures:

Jefferson Garcia	Garry Paul Cortez	Josephine David	Augusto Dy
Roanne Valerie Lim	John Eric Limbaco	Batusai	Thaddeus Llaguno
Mark Lauren Lim	Lionel Mendoza	Tee Suerte	Aris Ysais
Susana Marcial	Jemuel Tan	Emmylou Santos	Edwin Magbitang
Edna Coronongan	Ronald Hojas	Tordvic	Leo Carlo Dacan
Joseph Pacao	Teresita Samson	Amparito Santos	James Fajarito
Nick Crison Ching	Maris Emmett Po	Reena Kristine Mendoza	Najeer Bangahan
Arnold Rosales	Kathy Garcia	Beverly Quintans	Dennis Lanting
Rom de Guzman	Genesis Kelly Lontoc	Cedric Oh	Francis Crisostomo
Aristotle Wijangco	Dennis Chua	Jane Racela	Eleazar Hizon
Ma. Lourdes Holloway	Jane Abadiano	Elena Gastalla	Elizar Palad
Rowel Ordoñez	Dennis Calderon	Joanne Pacariem	
Rhozallino Ramones	Joshua Gacer	Michael Paca	

ANSWER: To rescue fellow IMF agent Lindsay Farris from the hands of syndicate mastermind Owen Davian

All winners will be notified through phone on how to claim their prize. All winners must bring one (1) valid ID and the print-out of our response e-mail upon claiming of prize. Thank you very much for joining!

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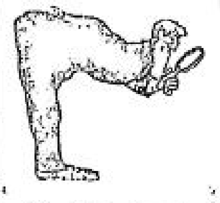
1	FAILURE TO LAUNCH	1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00	PG-13
2	X-MEN 3	12:00, 2:30 5:00, 8:10, 10:50	PG-13
3	THE DA VINCI CODE	12:30, 4:00, 7:25, 10:50	R-18
4	BENCH WARMERS	12:05, 2:15, 4:25 6:35, 8:45, 10:55	PG-13

Where you find the best.



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X-MEN THE LAST STAND

MAY 24

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CHAOS	BENCH WARMERS 12:25 / 2:20 / 4:15 / 6:10 / 8:05 / 10:00	FAILURE TO LAUNCH 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	
ALL ABOUT LOVE	MANAY PO	THE DA VINCI CODE 1:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 10:00	
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 7:10 / 9:50	OVER THE HEDGE 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00	X-MEN 3 12:00 / 12:40 / 2:20 / 3:00 4:40 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00	X-MEN 3 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40

Ali MALL CINEMAS

X-MEN 3 12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:05 / 3:00 / 5:55 / 8:50	ALL ABOUT LOVE
CHAOS 12:30 / 3:05 / 5:40 / 8:15	MANAY PO	DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

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THE DA VINCI CODE

BREAK THE CODE AT GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 & ALI MALL CINEMAS

---

matthew mcconaughey · sarah jessica parker

MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

To leave the nest, some men just need a little push.

failure to launch

IN THEATERS TODAY

www.FailureToLaunchMovie.com

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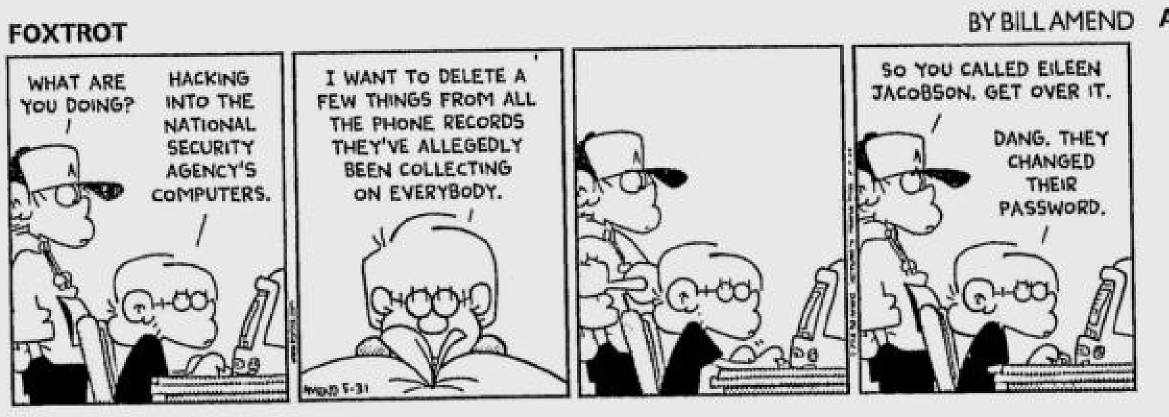
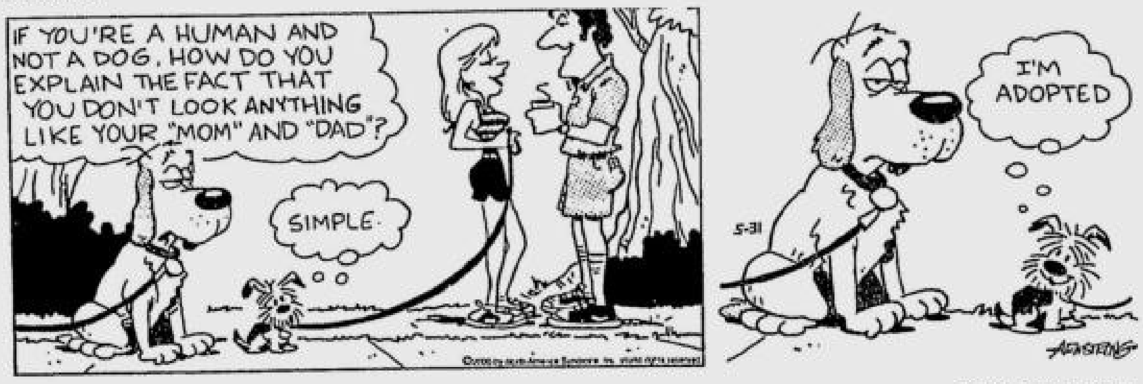
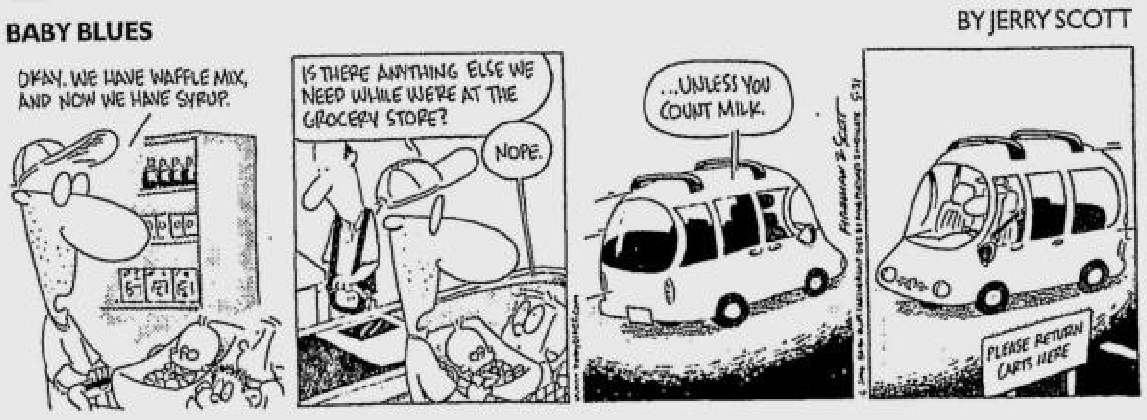
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HACKING INTO THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY'S COMPUTERS.
I WANT TO DELETE A FEW THINGS FROM ALL THE PHONE RECORDS THEY'VE ALLEGEDLY BEEN COLLECTING ON EVERYBODY.
SO YOU CALLED EILEEN JACOBSON. GET OVER IT.
DANG. THEY CHANGED THEIR PASSWORD.

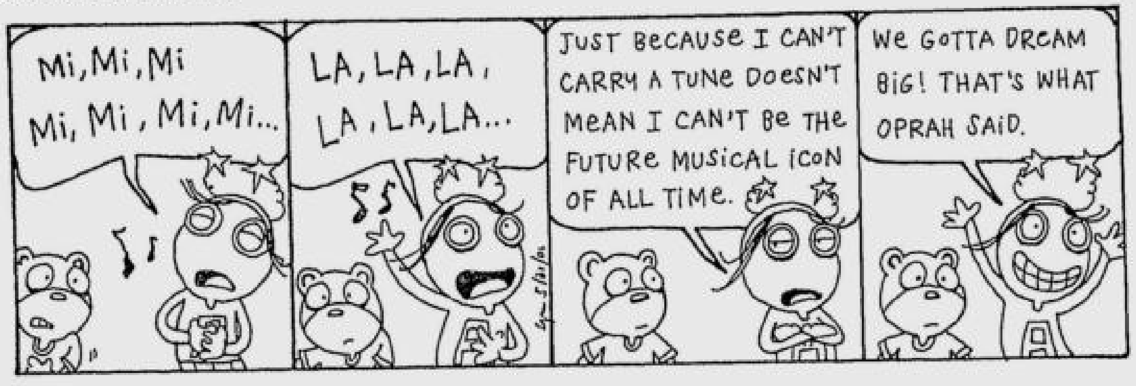
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IF YOU'RE A HUMAN AND NOT A DOG, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE YOUR "MOM" AND "DAD"?
SIMPLE.
5-31
I'M ADOPTED
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY. WE HAVE WAFFLE MIX, AND NOW WE HAVE SYRUP.
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE NEED WHILE WE'RE AT THE GROCERY STORE?
NOPE.
...UNLESS YOU COUNT MILK.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 5-31
PLEASE RETURN CARTS HERE

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Mi, Mi, Mi
Mi, Mi, Mi, Mi...
LA, LA, LA,
LA, LA, LA...
JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T CARRY A TUNE DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T BE THE FUTURE MUSICAL ICON OF ALL TIME.
WE GOTTA DREAM BIG! THAT'S WHAT OPRAH SAID.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a solid, grounded, no-nonsense individual. You get the job done. You're practical, flexible and extremely capable. You often convey an image of being detached or cool. In truth, under this mask you are quite sensitive and vulnerable. You're very much on top of the details in your life. This year can be one of the most powerful years of your life. Demand the advantage!
Birthdate of: Colin Farrell, actor; Clint Eastwood, actor; Brooke Shields, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Avoid domestic arguments today. Power struggles with family members are highly likely; however, they won't resolve things or promote better relations.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might be pushy with your point of view today. The upside of this is that you can sell, persuade and influence anyone—but at what cost? (And don't let others do this to you.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel obsessed with buying something or getting your way in financial matters. Spending money compulsively is a poor way to handle your hard-earned cash.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today Mercury in your sign opposes Pluto. This is the classic combination for propaganda and indoctrination. Be gentle with others. Sidestep people who come on too strong.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): There's a penetrating quality to your mind today. You want to probe mysteries and get the answers to unsolved questions. Research will go extremely well!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be careful about being obsessed with a particular idea today. Sometimes this is useful, but generally it is off-putting to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone (perhaps your boss or a parent) might try very hard to convince you about something. Possibly, this is happening the other way around. Either way, lighten up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your research skills are marvelous today. You can definitely get to the bottom of anything if you're looking for an answer. You have a probing mind.

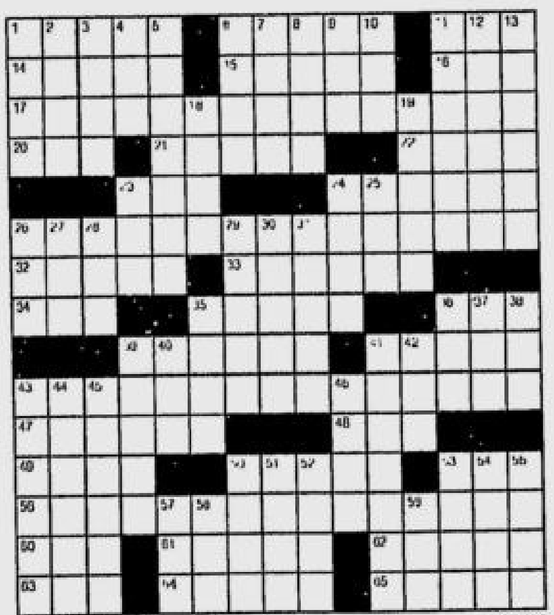
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Power struggles over shared possessions or jointly held property could take place today. People are not in the mood to cooperate or compromise. Friday is a much better day for discussions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with partners and friends today. Arguments can erupt over almost anything. Each party thinks he or she knows what's best. Furthermore, people think they know what's best for others! (Horrors.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): There's a strong energy out there today, and the best way for you to use it is to introduce reform and improvement at work. Or you might apply this same energy to improving your health.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be gentle with children today. It's easy to fly off the handle. The feeling "I know what's best for you" permeates everything and everyone.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
5/31/06

ACROSS
1 Author Jong
6 Meal
11 Posed
14 Hackneyed
15 Ephesus location
16 Compass dir.
17 Hemingway novel, with "The"
20 Napoleon's commander at Waterloo
21 Web stops
22 Butts
23 HI guitar
24 Loss of self-confidence
26 Innovative concepts, to some
32 Pungent bulb
33 Conundrum
34 Hammarskjold of the U.N.
35 Revealing skirts
36 __-mo
39 Tarzan wannabes
41 Tasty
43 Plagiarized?
47 Rocky ridges
48 Indy segment
49 Italian seaport
50 Mongol invader
53 Rationers of WWII
56 Elite group of experts
60 Writer Deighton
61 Fascist Balbo
62 Chicago-based film critic
63 Slalom starter?
64 Bridge expert
65 Paavo the Flying Finn

DOWN
1 Black, to Blake
2 Last breath
3 Memorial Day race, briefly
4 Eccentric piece
5 Juneau man
6 Decree
7 Solo
8 Nips in the bud
9 Take a chair
10 I doubt it!
11 Oil-rich seed
12 Hemoglobin deficiency
13 Ribs
18 Nuremberg negative
19 Wear away
23 ETs' transport
24 Goes on to say
25 Nothing
26 Silent assent
27 Bambi's aunt
28 Hair purchase
29 Filth
30 Like pads and parkas
31 Twin Cities suburb
35 Street of stables
36 Fat farm
37 Fleur-de-__
38 Praiseful poem
39 Clarinetist Shaw
40 "The Gold Bug" author
41 Hone
42 Avant-garde artist
43 Speak wildly
44 Papal vestments
45 TV oldies
46 Outline
50 Skier's lift
51 Up to the task
52 Roger Rabbit, for example
53 Lollapalooza
54 Salon set
55 High: pref.
57 Fix a roulette wheel?
58 Simpson judge
59 __ Dhabi

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	H	■	T	R	O	T	■	J	A	C	K	S
O	S	L	O	■	O	U	Z	O	■	E	F	L	A	T
S	T	U	N	■	P	E	A	K	■	T	R	A	L	A
T	I	M	E	B	E	R	R	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R
■	■	■	Y	U	K	■	K	O	L	A	■	■	■	■
A	I	D	■	N	A	P	■	■	A	G	H	A	S	T
D	R	A	W	N	■	H	I	S	S	■	I	C	E	R
M	E	R	R	Y	M	O	N	T	H	O	F	M	A	Y
A	N	T	I	■	A	N	N	O	■	D	I	E	T	S
N	E	S	T	E	R	■	■	P	O	D	■	S	S	T
■	■	■	■	M	C	A	T	■	X	L	S	■	■	■
F	A	I	R	P	O	L	E	F	L	Y	W	I	N	E
R	I	V	A	L	■	B	A	L	I	■	A	R	O	N
A	D	A	N	O	■	A	S	A	P	■	M	A	I	D
T	A	N	G	Y	■	N	E	W	S	■	P	Q	R	S

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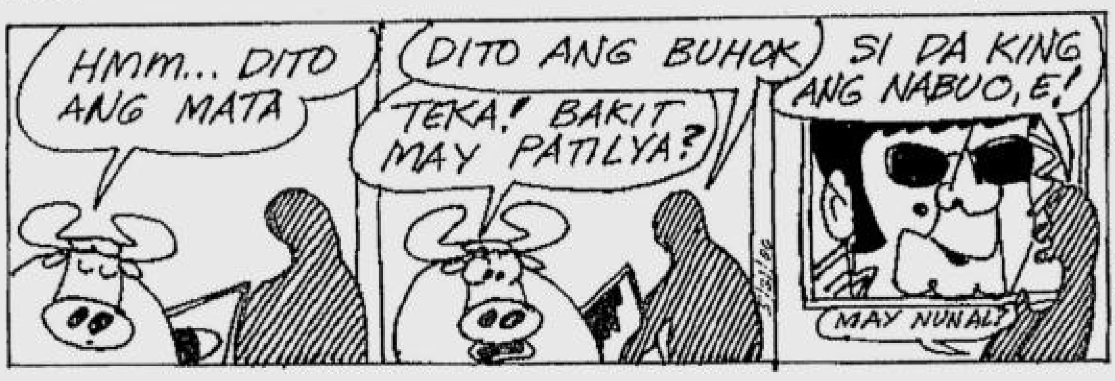
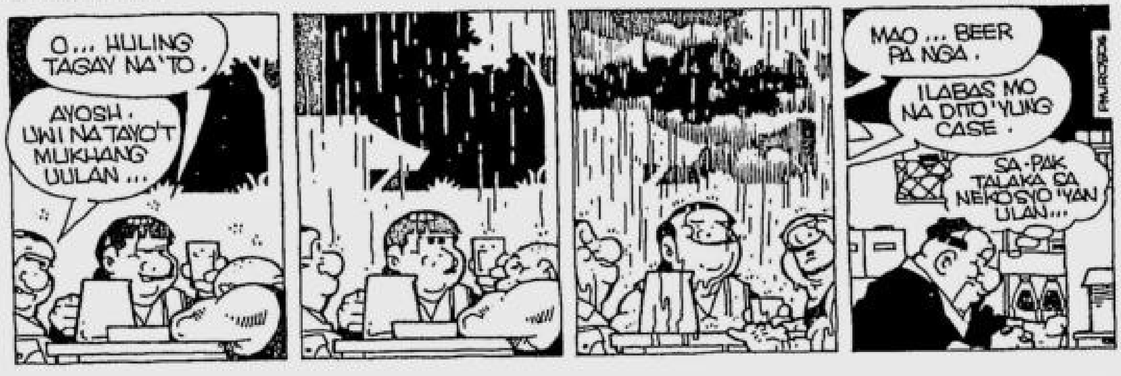
5/31/06

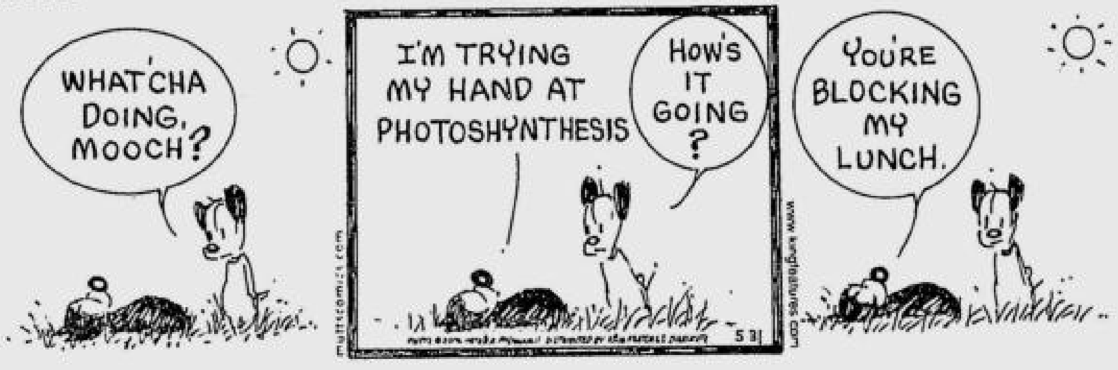
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HMM... DITO ANG MATA
DITO ANG BUHOK
TEKA! BAKIT MAY PATILYA?
SI DA KING ANG NABUO, E!
MAY NUNAL?

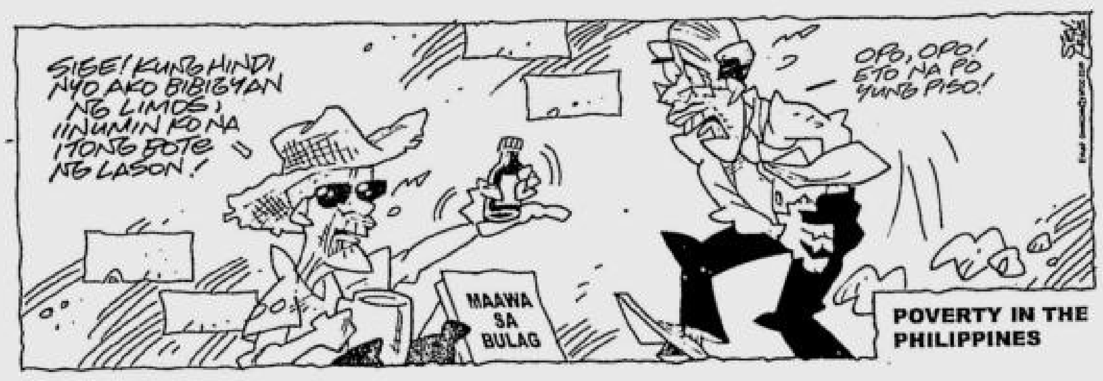
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... HULING TAGAY NA 'TO.
AYOSH. UWI NA TAYO'T MUKHANG UULAN...
MAO... BEER PA NGA.
ILABAS MO NA DITO 'YUNG CASE.
SA-PAK TALAGA SA NEKOSYO 'YAN ULAN...

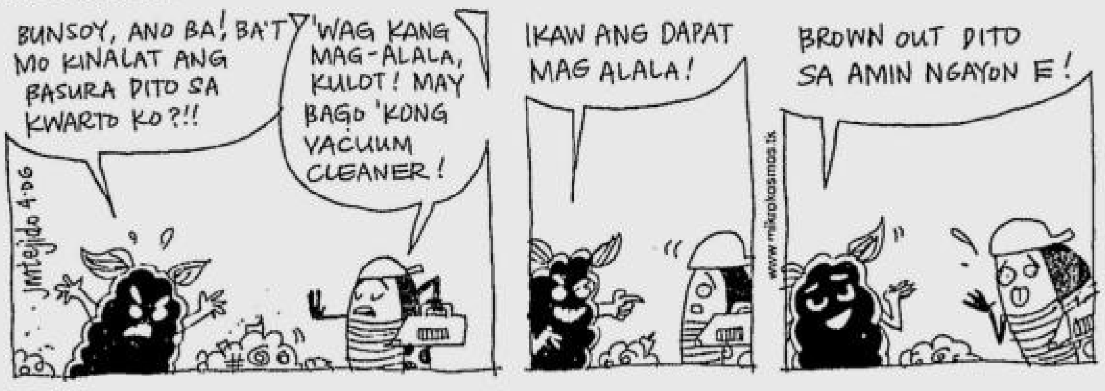
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'CHA DOING, MOOCH?
I'M TRYING MY HAND AT PHOTOSHYNTHESIS
HOW'S IT GOING?
YOU'RE BLOCKING MY LUNCH.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
5 31

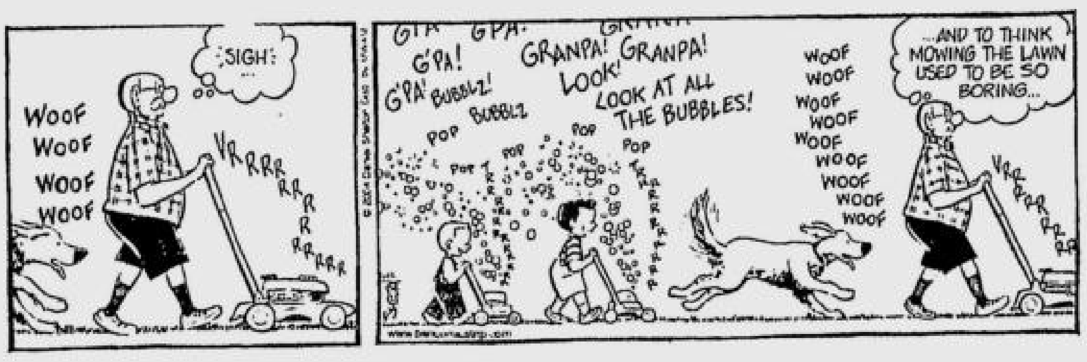
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SIGE! KUNG HINDI NYO AKO BIBIGYAN NG LIMOS, IINUMIN KO NA ITONG BOTE NG LASON!
OPO, OPO! ETO NA PO YUNG PISO!
MAAWA SA BULAG
POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

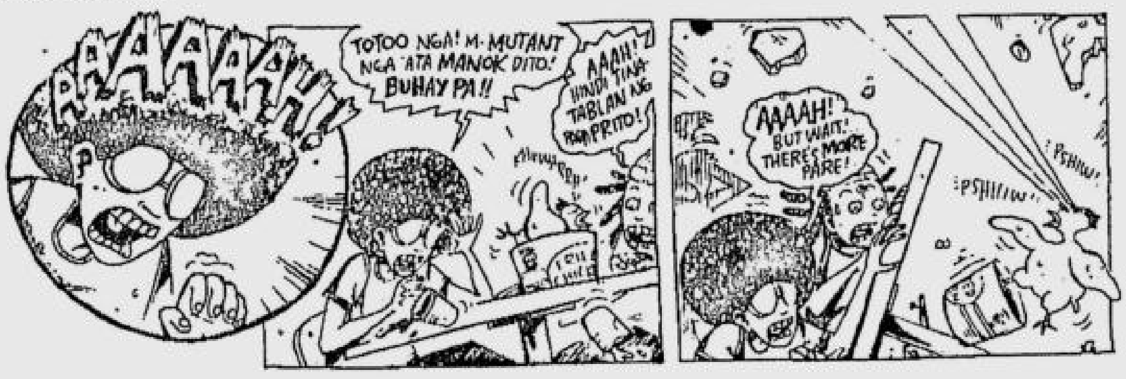
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, ANO BA! BA'T MO KINALAT ANG BASURA DITO SA KWARTO KO?!!
'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA, KULOT! MAY BAGO 'KONG VACUUM CLEANER!
IKAW ANG DAPAT MAG ALALA!
BROWN OUT DITO SA AMIN NGAYON E!
Jmtejido 4-06
www.mikrokosmos.tk

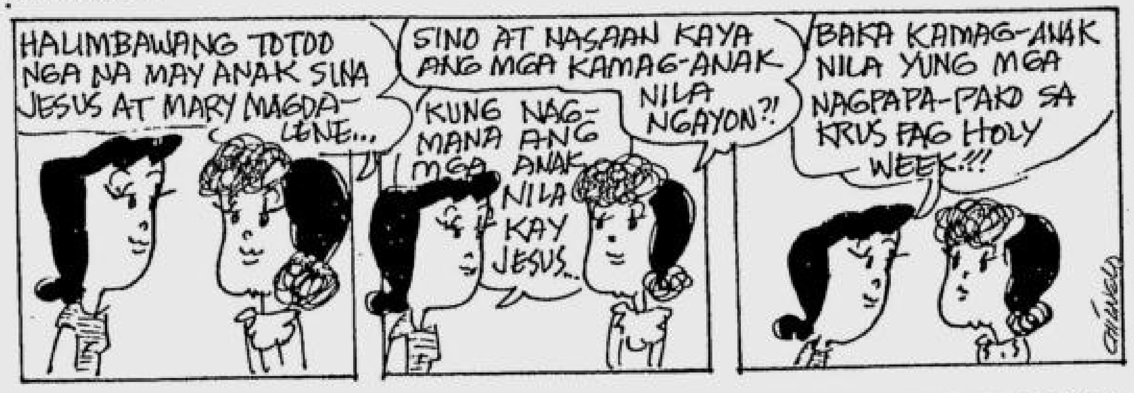
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SIGH
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
VRRRRRRRR
G'PA! G'PA! G'PA!
GRANPA! GRANPA!
BUBBLZ! BUBBLZ
LOOK!
LOOK AT ALL THE BUBBLES!
POP POP POP POP
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
...AND TO THINK MOWING THE LAWN USED TO BE SO BORING...
www.benthestrip.com

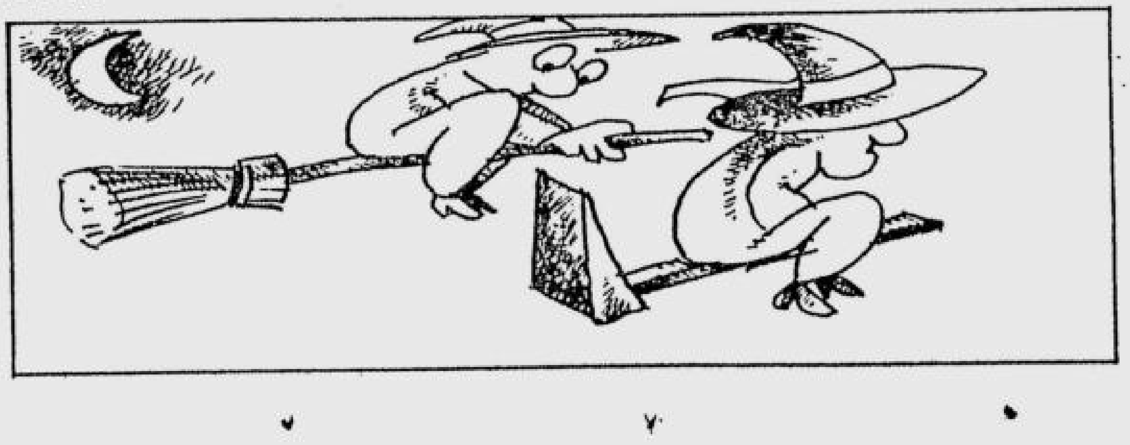
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAAAAH!!
TOTOO NGA! M-MUTANT NGA 'ATA MANOK DITO! BUHAY PA!!
AAAH!! HINDI TINATABLAN NG PAMPRITO!
AAAAH! BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE PARE!
PSHIIIW
PSHIIW

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HALIMBAWANG TOTOO NGA NA MAY ANAK SINA JESUS AT MARY MAGDALENE...
SINO AT NASAAN KAYA ANG MGA KAMAG-ANAK NILA NGAYON?!
KUNG NAGMANA ANG MGA ANAK NILA KAY JESUS...
BAKA KAMAG-ANAK NILA YUNG MGA NAGPAPA-PAKO SA KRUS PAG HOLY WEEK!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



ENTERTAINMENT

OPENING TODAY

Manay Po

Stars Cherry Pie Picache, John Prats, Polo Ravales, Jiro Manio

Directed by Joel Lamangan

Billed as a "Mother's Gay Presentation," this comedy centers on the insouciant single mom (Picache) of three gay boys (Ravales, Prats and Manio). Picache says this "wacky film" also has a serious side—showing the "hardships of a parent and young gays." Executive producer Lily Monteverde believes Filipinos are more than ready for movies with gay characters. She says, "We're proud to present these gay characters sympathetically and in a non-judgmental way."

All About Love

Stars Angelica Panganiban, John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Anne Curtis, Luis Manzano, Jason Abalos

Directed by Joyce Bernal, Jerry Lopez Sineneng, Don Cuaresma

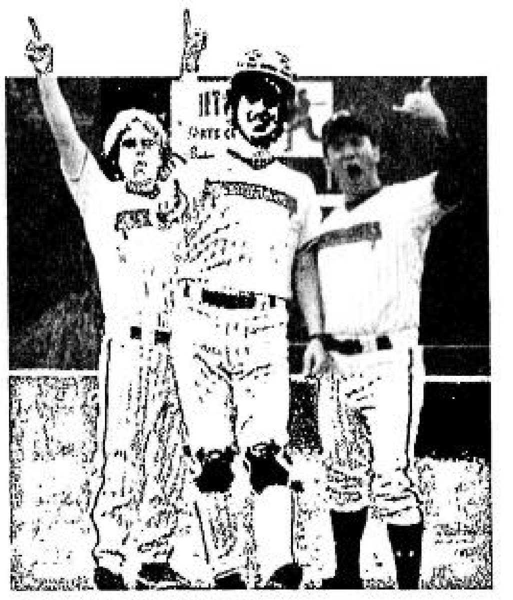
The 13th anniversary presentation of Star Cinema is a trilogy that gathers three love teams and is touted as "300 percent *kilig* (romantic)." Cruz and Alonzo describe their episode as "the most dramatic." Manzano and Curtis insist theirs is the "most fun." Panganiban and Abalos think theirs is the "most *pasaway*."

Chaos

Stars Jason Statham, Wesley Snipes, Ryan Phillippe

Directed by Tony Giglio

File under the "mismatched cops" action genre. An eager rookie detective (Phillippe) and a grizzled veteran with a shady past (Statham) are thrown together and must put aside their differences in order to capture a brilliant bank robber (Snipes). Vince Leo of Qwipster.net says the film is "glossy, empty entertainment strictly for fans of the stars and for those who aren't looking for anything out of the ordinary." From Beyondhollywood.com: "If you've seen at least two cop films in your life, you've no doubt seen most of 'Chaos' ... [It's] not a bad film. In fact, it's reasonably good and entertaining."


THE BENCHWARMERS

The Benchwarmers

Stars Rob Schneider, David Spade, Jon Heder, Jon Lovitz

Directed by Dennis Dugan

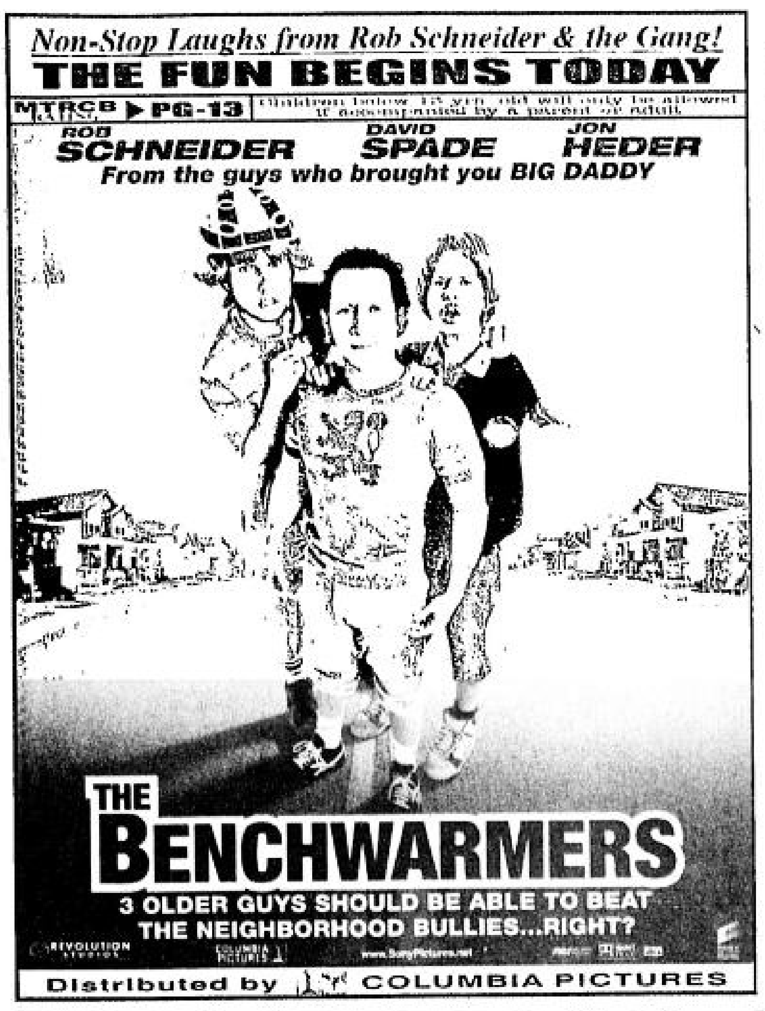
Revenge of the nerds, anyone? A rich geek puts together an underdog baseball team and competes with the "meanest" Little League in the state. Their goal is "to prove that everyone has the right to enjoy" America's favorite sport. E! Online cautions: "The best jokes are in the trailer... the rest involve nose-picking, vomiting, spitting and farting." James Parker of the Boston Globe points out: "But there are also moments of beauty. I laughed eight times and a gentleman behind me was wheezing in delight."

Failure to Launch

Stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew McConaughey, Kathy Bates

Directed by Tom Dey

Exasperated parents hire a woman to make their thirtysomething son fall in love—in the hopes of forcing him out of their home where he has been overstaying. Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times is just as infuriated as the guy's parents: "What stupid people these are." Eleanor Ringel Gillespie of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution sums it up: "The stars don't fail; the story does." Carina Chocano of the Los Angeles Times rants: "It's enough to make you think Hollywood is run by the world's least inspired alchemists."


Non-Stop Laughs from Rob Schneider & the Gang!
THE FUN BEGINS TODAY
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
ROB SCHNEIDER DAVID SPADE JON HEDER
From the guys who brought you BIG DADDY
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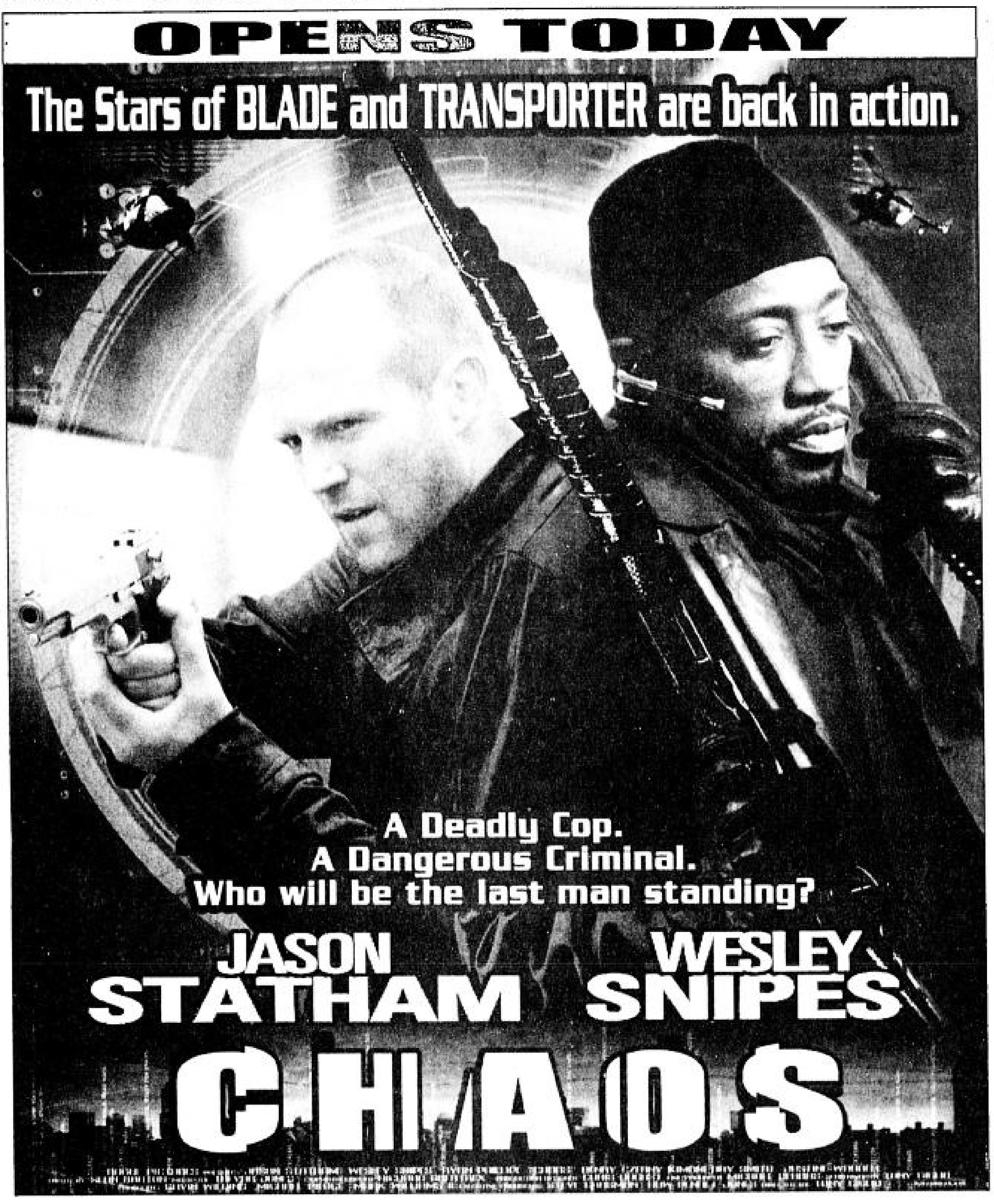
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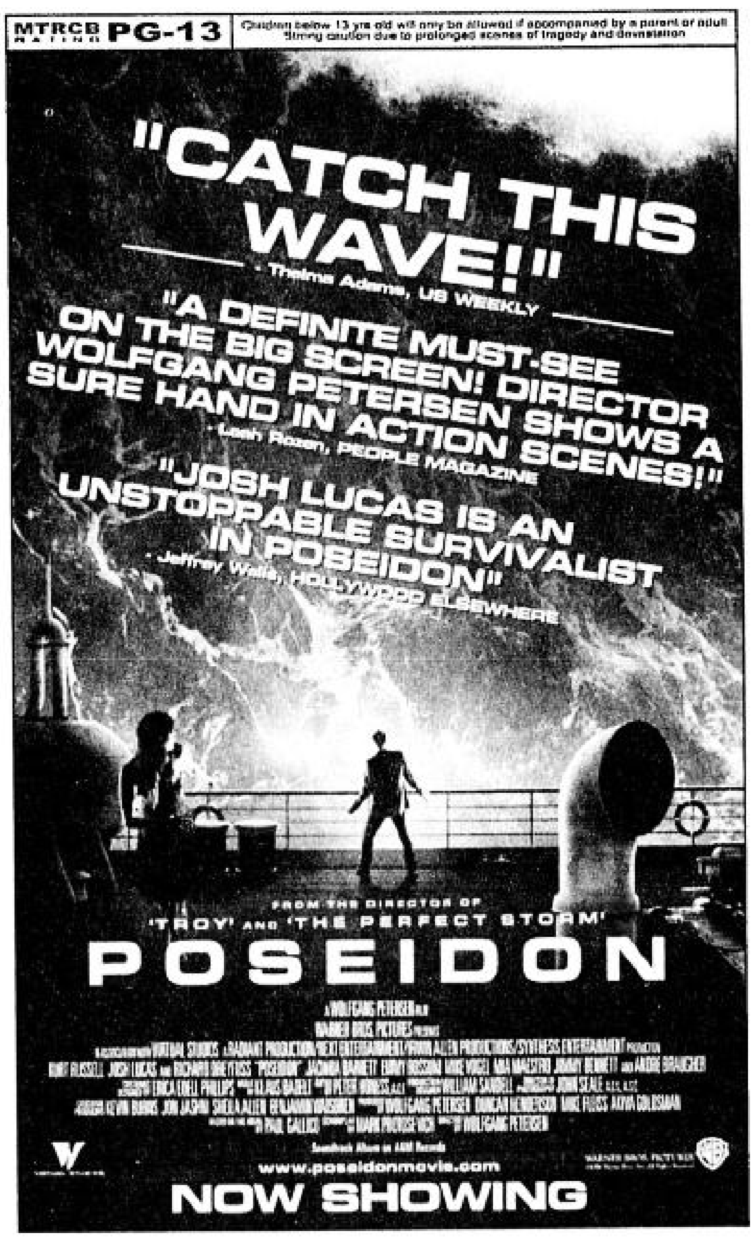
"Chippy Gimik Barkada" feat. 6Cyclemind, Sandwich, Callalily & Protein Shake (June 4) Starmall Edsa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GSIS drops bid to sell stake in EPCIBank

Wants SSS to sell stocks jointly to fetch higher price

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE Insurance System (GSIS) has junked its plan to sell its stake in Equitable-PCI Bank, at least for now, saying it was better if the Social Security System would be jointly selling its own shares in the bank.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia has been trying to convince the SSS to sell its stake in EPCIBank together with the government pension fund's to attract a higher price for the block.

"Investors would be willing to buy if they would be getting a majority stake in the bank, but the GSIS only has 13 percent," Garcia told reporters in a briefing.

Garcia insisted there were three investors, two of whom were foreign, who were willing to buy shares in the bank if they would be able to hold a majority stake. He shrugged off insinuations that the GSIS was only making up the story on the interested investors.

After news about potential buyers of GSIS shares saw print early this month, the price of EPCIBank jumped to more than P80 a share after hovering between P54 and P56.

Garcia said the GSIS would be willing to sell its stake at a minimum P95 a share, saying this would give the pension fund manager a reasonable profit. He noted that GSIS bought the shares in the bank at P92 each. But looking for a buyer who would agree on that price would be a little difficult if the investor would end up only having a minority stake.

Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank offered to buy the GSIS shares, but offered a price of only P56 a share, Garcia said. He added that this was not acceptable to the GSIS because selling at that price would make him accountable before the Office of the Ombudsman for selling the shares at a loss.

GSIS/B5

Govt delays Pasig ferry launch

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED BACK TO year's end the launch of the Pasig River ferry system, effectively giving the project's winning bidder—which had fallen behind in its rollout commitment—a new lease on life.

The delay means that Nautical Transport Services will have six more months to comply with its commitments, which calls for a ferry system that can transport at least 28,000 passengers a day along the river's 27-kilometer stretch.

In a telephone interview, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) executive director Bingle Gutieres said the decision to delay the launch date was made partly because the government was also behind on its commitments to the project.

"We are also delayed with the construction of the stations," she said, referring to the 14 riverside terminals which the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has committed to build under the deal with Nautical Transport.

The original contract called for the service to start operations by February 2006 with at least five ferries and another five in operation by June.

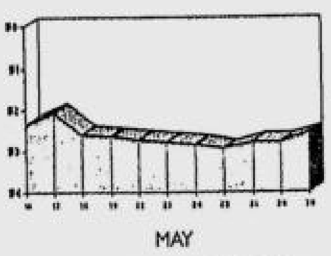
The PRRC is the agency in charge with the project's implementation in close coordination with the transportation department. It is initially working on building eight ferry stations.

Six contracts have so far been awarded to various builders while another station in Valenzuela, Makati City, is on hold pending the resolution of a right-of-way dispute with a private property owner.

"Because of this, we have given [Nautical Transport] until yearend [to finish the ferry boats]," she said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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P 52.59 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 30, 2006

¥ 111.67 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 30, 2006

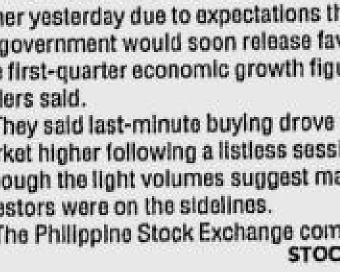
GOLD: $654.70-655.20

per ounce Hong Kong, May 30, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

MAY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

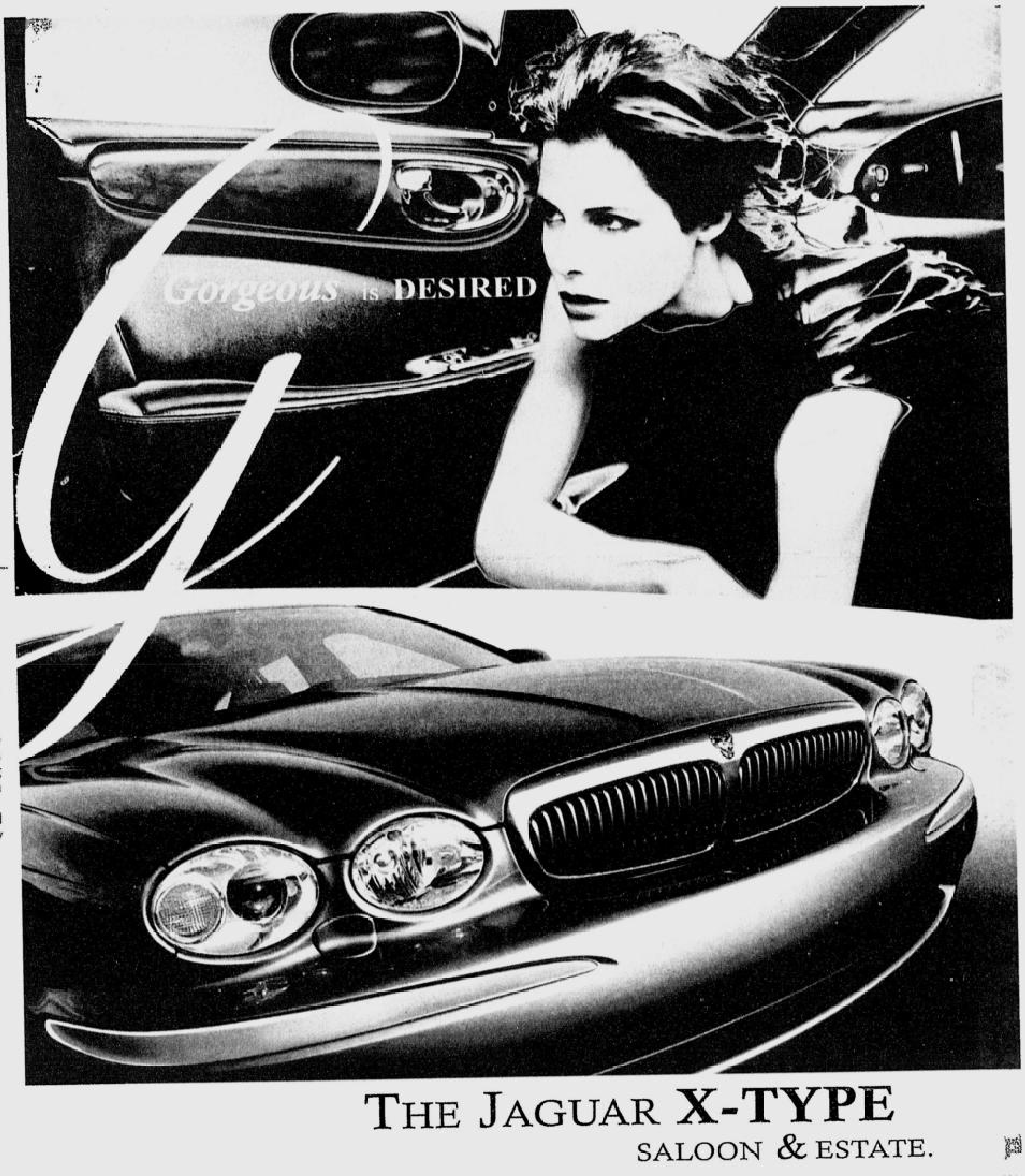
Stocks up slightly

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.75-PERCENT higher yesterday due to expectations that the government would soon release favorable first-quarter economic growth figures, dealers said.

They said last-minute buying drove the market higher following a listless session, although the light volumes suggest many investors were on the sidelines.

The Philippine Stock Exchange compo-

STOCKS/B2



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RLC to raise $220M in share offer

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. (RLC), the property arm of the Gokongwei family, will raise at least $220 million from an offer of shares to local and international investors in July.

Trailing the successful offering of its sister firm Universal Robina Corp. this year, RLC told the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) that the total share offer will be about 932.8 million shares, of which some 450 million shares will serve as the primary offer.

The primary offering will come out of RLC's unissued authorized capital stock.

The price will be computed based on the average trading price of RLC's shares during the ten days preceding the pricing date of the offer, subject to a discount of up to 10 percent.

RLC has tapped UBS Investment Bank to handle the deal.

RLC yesterday closed at P11 a share.

The Gokongwei group, through URC, earlier raised P12 billion from the sale of shares to foreign and local investors.

The exercise increased URC's public float to 40 percent from 10 percent.

The same tack is being applied to RLC to boost its liquidity.

RLC is launching two major residential projects within the next two years, which will target the Binondo Filipino-Chinese communities and overseas Filipino workers.

Next year, it will start construction of Otis 888, its second upscale townhomes cluster project on the four-hectare old Manila Gas property the company recently acquired from the government.

Otis 888, which is on Otis Road beside UN Avenue in Manila, will consist of 200 units spread across three hectares. RLC is also planning to put up a three to four-storey mall on the remaining one hectare lot.

A call center will take up 10,000 square meters of mall space, and may cater to 1,500 to 2,000 seats. The mall is slated to open in 2007.

Also, RLC will soon begin a residential project to cater to families of overseas Filipino workers. The housing project will be located on a 9.3-hectare lot in Merville, Parañaque City. Launch date is set for the third quarter this year.

RLC at the moment is in talks with a private owner of a lot in Fort Bonifacio for the possible construction of a residential condominium in the area.

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SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 417-8286
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-7540
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

PSE threatens to suspend trading of 15 listed firms

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) yesterday warned 15 listed firms that it would automatically suspend trading of their shares if they fail to submit their required annual reports today.

The PSE earlier granted a grace period of up to May 31 to a number of companies that were unable to submit their annual reports under "Securities and Exchange Commission Form 17A."

Francis Lim, PSE president said that, "once the deadline extension expires today, the PSE will on June 1 automatically suspend trading of stocks of all firms that failed to beat the deadline."

The deadline for submission of the reports originally lapsed last May 2. But the PSE softened up and considered the difficulties the companies were having in preparing their financial statements in compliance to new accounting standards under the International Accounting Standards/ Philippine Accounting Standards (IAS/PAS).

The IAS/PAS took effect last Dec. 31.

At press time, 15 listed companies have yet to submit their 2005 annual reports. These are: Apex Mining Co. Inc., Benguet Corp., Cosmos Bottling Corp., Cyber Bay Corporation, DMCI Holdings Inc., Federal Chemicals Inc., Metro Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp., MRC Allied Industries Inc., Pacifica Inc., Philippine National Construction Corp., Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp., RFM Corp., Swift Foods Inc., Unioil Resources & Holdings Company Inc., Uniwide Holdings Inc.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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Global Steel to start export

THE COUNTRY MAY SOON EXpect to start earning dollars from locally made steel products after Global Steel Philippines Inc. announced that it would be wrapping up supply talks with possible overseas buyers.

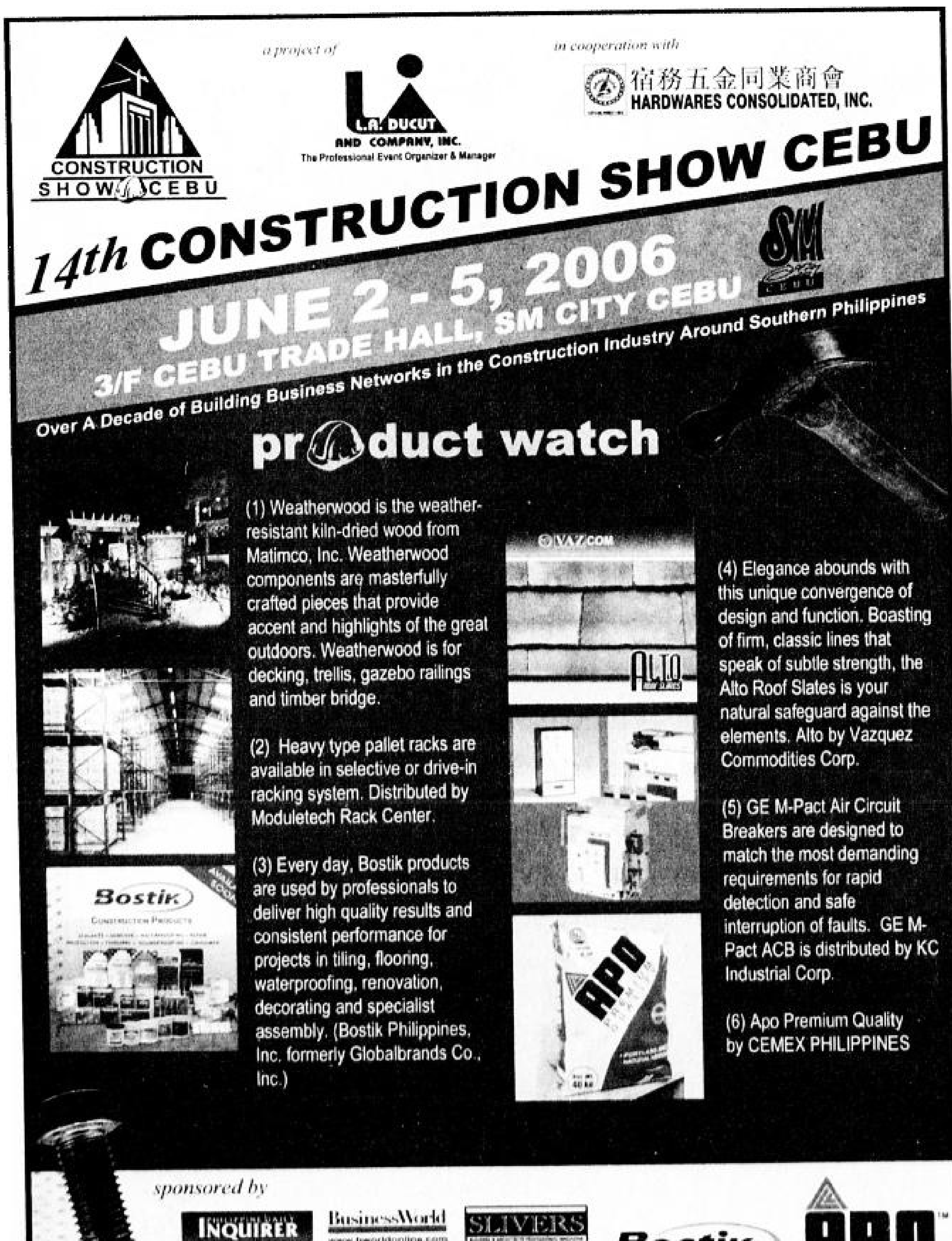
GSP chief operating office BS Mohnani said the company was in talks with companies operating in the United States and Europe who are interested in buying hot-rolled coils (HRCs) from the Philippines.

HRCs are the inputs for cold-rolled coils (CRCs) used in making industrial goods such as automobile components, precision tubes and consumer durables.

"We are in the process of concluding sales agreements," Mohnani said, adding that the export of HRCs would mark the first time the company would be exporting since the plant started operating again in 2004.

GSP began operating the former National Steel Corp. production facility in Iligan City, while the plant was still under rehabilitation.

Mohnani said GSP planned to export HRCs worth $10 million in June alone. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



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RCBC to issue debt notes

MID-SIZE LENDER Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. is raising new capital through an issuance of $100 million in subordinated notes and 200 million preferred shares, the company yesterday said.

In its disclosure, RCBC said that its board approved the issuance of "perpetual subordinated notes" worth $100 million, which will form part of the bank's Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital.

Of this amount, $27.89 million will consist of hybrid tier 1 or core capital, and the balance as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

The bank also said its board agreed to the issuance of up to 200 million preferred shares with a par value of P10 a share.

The shares may be issued in either pesos or US dollars.

Also, the bank will issue underlying common shares to cover the conversion of the preferred shares into common shares which will be listed on the PSE.

Bank officials yesterday were unable to give more details.

RCBC had said its first-quarter net income soared 200 percent to P321 million from a year ago due to growth in net interest income as well as higher trading income.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 30, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		FINANCIAL			
		BANKS			
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36.5	37	36.5	37	47,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52.5	52	52.5	844,200
China Banking Corp.	850	895	835	895	5,810
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	3,400,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71.5	72.5	71.5	72	197,900
International Exch. Bank	40.5	41.5	40.5	41.5	375,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	36	35.5	36	486,200
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33	34	41,800
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39.5	39	39.5	26,500
Security Bank Corp.	49.5	49.5	49	49	273,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	46.5	47	46.5	47	9,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS			
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	4,228,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2000	2000	1890	1900	1,300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2100	2115	2100	2115	2,070
Ivantage Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.2	1.26	1,667,000
		INDUSTRIAL			
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER			
First Gen Corp.	47	47	46.5	47	1,033,300
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45.5	44.5	45.5	236,400
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	1,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.75	21	21.5	500,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	714,000
Petron Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	1,453,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	60,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO			
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23.25	23	23.25	57,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36	35	35	181,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	28,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.85	2.9	1,122,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	63.5	62.5	63.5	357,000
San Miguel Corp. B	71	72	68	71.5	937,200
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19	19	19	2,340,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	3,920,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES			
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	850,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.26	1.3	1.24	1.28	2,800,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	172,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.65	4.7	1,299,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Active Alliance Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.095	0.095	900,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	4,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.26	0.31	0.26	0.31	370,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	410	410	405	407.5	85,930
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	160,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	944,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.3	2,907,000
APC Group Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	1,190,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	15,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	800,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	137,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	1,755,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.9	695,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	1,341,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	326,000
Keppel Holdings	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	670,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	9,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	4,900,000
SM Investments Corp.	222	222	221	222	244,600
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	240,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,100,000
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.75	7,019,900
Belle Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.18	8,815,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.16	2.04	2.16	1,361,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1	1	1	1	20,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1	1	1	1	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	2,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.38	1,879,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.54	22,214,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.205	14,480,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11	11	11	11	22,200
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	3,194,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	2,200,000
		SERVICE			
		MEDIA			
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15	14.75	15	73,600
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.28	1.34	1.26	1.28	17,776,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	910	915	905	910	22,160
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	2,209,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2020	2055	2020	2045	153,720
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.19	0.19	760,000
Ionics Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	20,000
IPVG Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	35,200,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES			
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,129,700
		HOTEL & LEISURE			
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	717,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	490,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	220,000
		EDUCATION			
IPeople Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	72,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES			
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	350,000
Paxys Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	401,700
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.2	3.25	3.05	3.2	4,272,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	3.35	3.35	3.1	3.25	1,554,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	67,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	962,000
Benguet Corp. A	11	11	11	11	23,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	12,820,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	3,670,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	14,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	444,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.9	3.9	3.75	3.9	10,618,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.9	3.95	3.75	3.95	5,939,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27	265,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	760,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	243,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.24	1.26	1.2	1.24	2,158,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.24	1.26	1.2	1.26	432,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	15.25	16.5	15.25	16.5	1,432,100
		PREFERRED			
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series CC	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	600
		WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.			
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	15	15	14.75	14.75	885,400

CURRENCIES

May 30, 2006

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.784129	1.000000	52.8170
Japan	Yen	0.006978	0.008899	0.4700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458167	1.859600	98.2185
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101099	0.128932	6.8098
Switzerland	Franc	0.640420	0.816727	43.1371
Canada	Dollar	0.709363	0.904650	47.7809
Singapore	Dollar	0.496598	0.633312	33.4496
Australia	Dollar	0.594848	0.758610	40.0675
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.079973	2.652590	140.1018
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209068	0.266624	14.0823
Brunei	Dollar	0.495031	0.631313	33.3441
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020508	0.026154	1.3814
UAE	Dirham	0.213490	0.272264	14.3802
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.275300	67.3575
Brazil	Real	0.349901	0.446229	23.5685
Denmark	Kroner	0.134140	0.171069	9.0354
India	Rupee	0.017013	0.021697	1.1460
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216073	0.275558	14.5541
Mexico	New Peso	0.070111	0.089413	4.7225
New Zealand	Dollar	0.496976	0.633794	33.4751
South Africa	Rand	0.120422	0.153574	8.1113
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.001056	0.0558
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024487	0.031228	1.6494

Stocks up slightly

From page B1

site index gained 17.19 points to 2,300.08 after moving between 2,275.47 and 2,303.54.

Volume was 1.02 billion shares worth P1.2 billion. Gainers led losers 43 to 34, with 50 stocks unchanged.

Economists said the economy was likely to expand by 5 to 6 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, thanks to a recovery in farm output which complements a robust services sector.

"Today investors just took advantage of the key index's low level and took positions ahead of the GDP (gross domestic product) data due out (on Wednesday)," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings Inc.

"The market is at oversold levels. A technical rebound is imminent but the bulls must rest for the meantime. I think the market will remain in consolidation mode before moving higher amid a generally positive long-term outlook on the economy," Del Castillo added.

AFP

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*Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2005 (based on 2004 performance)

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Traditionally, companies requiring remote access for their data transport and traffic have to rely on prohibitive costs of dedicated data lines or the cheaper but much slower dial-up connections.

However, organizations now have an affordable alternative to traditional remote access solutions by shifting to the Internet to securely extend the reach of their network resources.

Thus, GlobeQUEST is introducing VPN Express, a method of ensuring private, secure communication between two or more offices in geographically separate locations via the Internet at a reasonable price.

It is best for retailers, franchisers, airlines, logistics and traders, manufacturers, government and academe, and other multi-site businesses and could be used for help desk support, POS application, remote monitoring, inventory management, video conferencing, e-learning, application hosting, among others.

GlobeQUEST VPN Express initiates IPSec tunneling and encryption to enable a site office of the customer network to be virtually connected to its headquarters and other branches.

IPSec is a protocol which sits on top of the Internet Protocol (IP) layer and ensures enhanced Internet security and privacy of data, thereby preventing unauthorized persons from accessing the information being received and sent.

In addition, the IPSec-based GlobeQUEST VPN Express integrates and supports multiple technologies and access methods that allow companies to build on their existing network and continue to run business applications whether voice, data or video over a wide area.

Thus, clients can realize significant savings on operational expenses through innovative design and approach to private networking.

The service is, likewise, easily scalable, customizable and flexible to meet the clients' growing needs and is fully-integrated with GlobeQUEST's private data network services such as MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) which can be used to aggregate traffic to the head office.

GlobeQUEST VPN Express offers variants that are tailor-fit to customer networking requirements and provides the clients with an "always on" connectivity to ensure real time information availability from its geographically dispersed branches or location.

Real-time connectivity enables customer to have updated information from dispersed location. This translates into faster decision making, better monitoring and improve market response

It is available anywhere anyone can get an Internet connection whether in the Philippines or abroad and can be accessed through foreign partner service providers or aggregators.

It also provides end-to-end management for proactive monitoring of customer network as well as value-added features such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Managed Security.

VPN Express aims to fulfill the demand for secure connectivity of most enterprises today in a cost-effective, fast and simple approach. Businesses can link up customers, suppliers and partners to drive more revenues, act faster and extend better customer experience.

Expect more from GlobeQUEST, as it positions itself as your ICT partner of choice in delivering relevant and practical solutions.

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, is a leader in first-rate networking solutions in the Philippines. It has an assembly of products and services such as GlobeQUEST Private Networks, GlobeQUEST Broadband Internet, GlobeQUEST Corporate Voice, GlobeQUEST Broadband Access, GlobeQUEST DataCentres, and GlobeQUEST Enterprise Mobility Solutions - each designed to answer any challenge a business may conceive. For more information, pls. log on to www.globequest.com.ph.

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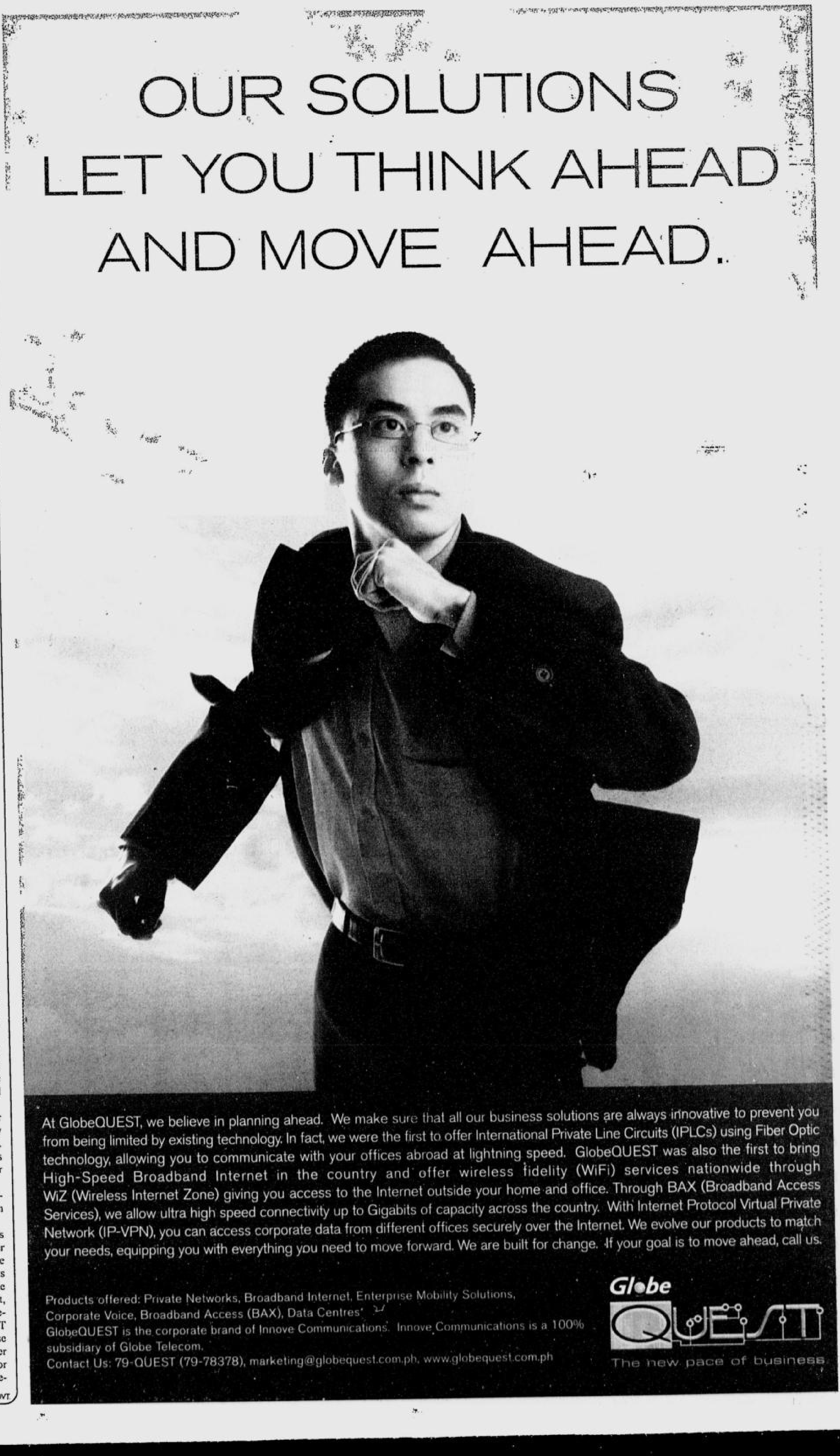
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At GlobeQUEST, we believe in planning ahead. We make sure that all our business solutions are always innovative to prevent you from being limited by existing technology. In fact, we were the first to offer International Private Line Circuits (IPLCs) using Fiber Optic technology, allowing you to communicate with your offices abroad at lightning speed. GlobeQUEST was also the first to bring High-Speed Broadband Internet in the country and offer wireless fidelity (WiFi) services nationwide through WiZ (Wireless Internet Zone) giving you access to the Internet outside your home and office. Through BAX (Broadband Access Services), we allow ultra high speed connectivity up to Gigabits of capacity across the country. With Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network (IP-VPN), you can access corporate data from different offices securely over the Internet. We evolve our products to match your needs, equipping you with everything you need to move forward. We are built for change. If your goal is to move ahead, call us.

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MOTORING

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Short but very rewarding drive

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

ONE LOOK AT OUR GROUP'S ITINERARY, THIS writer knew we would be facing a very tight schedule: arrive at Puerto Princesa in Palawan at 9:15 a.m., have an early lunch at Asturias Hotel, start test driving the latest Honda Civic at 11 a.m., take a 1:45 p.m. boat ride to Dos Palmas Arreceffi island resort, rest and then fly back to Manila the next morning.

But by some amazing stroke of luck our flight got delayed by four hours! This means there will be changes in the itinerary including shortening our more than a hundred kilometer test drive.

Looking on the bright side, the short test drive that afternoon gave us a valuable opportunity to experience firsthand the car's ride and handling characteristics.

As we sped along the province's well-paved but twisty eastern coastal road, the new Civic handled corners pretty tightly, kept its poise under hard braking or sudden movement, and provided adequate feedback.

Providing the needed momentum for the new Civic is a 2-liter (or 1.8-liter), single overhead cam, 16-valve, i-VTEC four-cylinder engine that produces 155 horsepower (or 140 for the 1.8L), with power directed to the front wheels through a five-speed manual transmission or a five-speed automatic.

BRAKE feel of the new Civic was solid, steering response certain, if not sports car-quick.

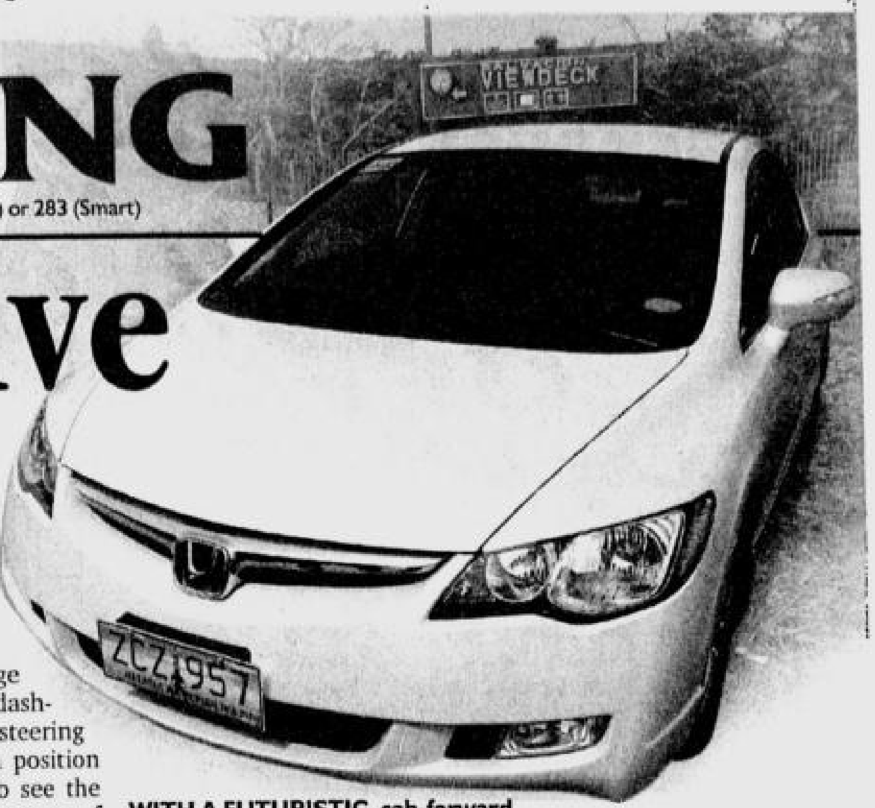
Daring

The new Civic's interior is equally daring, featuring what Honda calls a two-tier instrument panel.

The digital speedometer, temperature gauge and fuel gauge are moved atop the dashboard right behind the steering wheel's top edge. Such position allow the driver to also see the road ahead while being aware of the speed. Tachometer and other gauges are in the conventional, lower location, and require a normal glance down.

But Honda's real achievement is that it has created a car that possesses advanced, purposeful and sporty styling and functions. With the redesigned 2006 Civic, Honda sheds conservatism and continues its trend-setting ways.

Indeed, as we ended our abbreviated test drive that afternoon, we were pretty sure that this latest offering from Honda will again hurtle the company to newer heights while giving the new Civic's competition more than a little to think about.



WITH A FUTURISTIC, cab-forward design, the 2006 Honda Civic has more presence on the road.

Going the distance again

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

BY THE TIME THIS INSTALLMENT REACHES the readers' doorsteps, I'll probably be somewhere in the middle of the most difficult driving challenge in this year's automotive events calendar. Rather than state the obvious, let's just say that this task might involve the length of the island of Luzon, a major petroleum player and six brave teams looking to break the 1,114-kilometer mileage mark on a single tank of unleaded pump gas.

Exaggeration aside, the run from Pagudpud to Sorsogon is no small feat of wheel work. Already, I'm getting tired thinking about the hours upon hours that will be spent behind the wheel of one of the chase cars. Yes, that's right, I'm not competing in the mileage classification but rather, am going to help shepherd the people who think they've got what it takes to excel the driving skill and ability of a man that I respect very much, his signature petite athletic shorts notwithstanding.

The distance is downright sobering; all told the driving will cover over 1,500 kilometers from flag off, through transport and run out. What makes matters more severe is that this will be literally driving away from circumstances that I am more familiar and comfortable with. Habits, especially the ones of a driving nature, are hard to break, particularly when you become accustomed to something—like one's essential afternoon caffeine and the required half pack of Lucky Lights.

Admittedly, I am more used to the daily close quarters driving situation typical of a congested metropolis. The faster, flowing clip at which this drive will probably assume is something that one must adjust to, not that this up tempo change is going to be a source of complaint from many.

The changing driving surfaces and the rhythm of the road, meaning the manner with which it cambers and turns, will also need to be taken into consideration. There is no way one can generalize that the driving conditions in the Ilocos region will be similar to the ones in Bicolandia. It will not take a seasoned driver to figure these differences out but I am actually looking forward to seeing how the road nuances itself over such an extended distance, over a very short period of time.

The demeanor of the drivers that we will encounter will also be predictably varied, but not by very much. Filipinos, as skilled and insane as we are behind the wheels of whatever we drive, can often be found lacking in our fear of the afterlife, religious a nation as we are. This is not a constant across our people of course. The plucky question at hand is: who among the drivers in the Philippines are the most God-fearing?

And one cannot go on talking of such a marathon undertaking, under the most fickle of summer conditions, and not make mention of Mother Nature. Weather may very well make or break this epic drive. The predicted conditions for the trip will be one of a gray nature—all the more making this endurance run difficult to deal with. For the contestants the possibility of wet weather means that they will have to pull consistency out of their bag of tricks. The ideal speeds for a test of this nature (i.e. the slow and sure pace) should prove the way to go, regardless if heavens spew oceans of rain or if the sun decides to bake us all to a crisp.

At the end of the journey, people might actually break the 1,114-km mileage record and therefore find themselves receiving the deserved accolades for a feat so steeped in skill. That's what this lengthy exercise means for many, and the publicity from such claim the true momentum for the drive. For me though, it will be about seeing parts of this country from the best possible vantage point: the driver's seat. And though I will be driving away, at some point the trip will be about driving back—to home and you.

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'Good-bye' cars

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

JUST LIKE FRIENDS, CAR MODELS come and go. Some leave the car market after only a few years without saying good-bye. The exit of others is announced with the grand entrance of its replacement. Example: Good-bye, Revo; Hello, Innova.

If you were to draw up a list of car models that went "bye-bye" in the last few years, you would come up with a pretty long list. Start with the Toyota Tamaraw/Revo, for many years the undisputed best-selling Asian utility vehicle (AUV) in this country. On Feb. 14, 2005, when Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. launched the Innova to replace the Revo, they also announced that they had stopped producing the Revo the preceding December.

Orphaned

Did you hear the gnashing of teeth and cuss words coming from those who had just bought a Revo the year before? If it's any comfort, the orphaned fate of Revo owners is shared by those who bought cars from General Motors such as the Subaru Forester, Opel Vectra and Astra, Chevrolet Cassia (actually the Suzuki Baleno), Chevrolet Silverado pickup and the Zafira estate car. The Zafira initially appeared wearing the Opel badge, dropped out of sight, reappeared wearing the Chevrolet badge and now is no longer being sold again.

Meanwhile, the GM dealerships morphed into Chevrolet dealerships and stopped selling Subaru, Opel and Suzuki vehicles. The former GM dealers now sell Chevys such as the Lumina, Venture and Trailblazer but they also carry South Korean Daewoo products that have been rebadged as Chevrolets such as the Aveo subcompact and the Optra compact sedan and station wagon. By the way, the Aveo being sold here will soon be superseded by a totally redesigned 2006 Aveo that is already being sold in Malaysia. Subaru cars, on the other hand, will be relaunched in July no longer under the GM/Chevrolet setup.

Replaced

Ford Motor Philippines has a few orphans, too: the F-150 pickup, Explorer Sport-Trac, Lynx compact car (replaced by the Focus) and Escape 2.0-liter compact SUV (phased out in favor of the 2.3 liter and 3.0 V6). The Mazda Tribute 2.0 left the scene together with its cousin, the Ford Escape 2.0, to make way for the 2.3-liter and 3.0 V6 versions.

Other 2.0-liter cars that were replaced by variants with bigger engines are the Honda Accord and the Toyota Camry. Now you can only buy these executive sedans with either a 2.4-liter or a 3.0 V6 powerplant. Makes you wonder why the 2.0-liter versions were removed given the soaring price of oil.

1.3 Lancer

Similarly, the Mitsubishi Lancer 1.3 is no longer available. The current Lancers are powered by 1.6- and 1.8-liter engines, with the 2.0 liter reportedly up for intro this year. The Honda Jazz made its debut with a 1.3-liter engine but came up later with a 1.5 VTEC powerplant, much to the consternation of those who had already bought the 1.3. But the 1.3 Jazz is still available.

Other vehicles that are no longer sold are the Nissan Verita subcompact, the Isuzu Fuego pickup (replaced by the D-Max), Kia Carnival minivan (survived by the Sedona) and the Toyota Echo subcompact and Echo Verso. But the Echo, known as the Yaris in Japan and Vitz in Europe, is rumored to be making a comeback in its 2006 iteration to give the Honda Jazz some real competition.

In the pipeline

Aside from the 2006 Toyota Echo, the completely revamped 2006 Mitsubishi Outlander compact SUV should be launched here early next year (it's already being sold in Malaysia). The all-new 2007 Toyota Corolla, Toyota Camry and Nissan Sentra are also in the pipeline. Ford wants to bring the Ford Fiesta subcompact here. The buzz is that TMPC will launch the Toyota Avanza 1.3-liter MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) this year as a more economical alternative to the Innova. Will the Avanza signal Toyota's return to the AUV market?

Meanwhile, Nissan may be contemplating the intro of the 2007 Teana executive sedan in the Philippines to succeed the Cefiro while the all-new 2006 350Z sports car waits in the wings. Not that peasants like you and me can afford the 350Z

* * *

CORRECTION. Last week, I wrote that no major oil firm is selling preblended ethanol gasoline here. Turns out that Pilipinas Shell began selling Super Unleaded E10 on May 13 at four Shell stations in Metro Manila: Royal Dutch Shell claims to be the world's largest blender and retailer of transport biofuels.

* * *

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Al Mendoza

I WRITE IN DEFENSE AGAIN OF THE law.

This time, it's the law called the Limited Access Highway Act, which I like to call as the Motorcycle Law.

The law disallows motorcycles below 400cc (cubic centimeters) to enter either the South Luzon Expressway (SLE) or North Luzon Expressway (NLE), and other highways deemed unfit for small motorcycles.

The law is good because it primarily protects not only the "big biker" but also the rest of the motorists using both toll roads.

* * *

As we all know, there is added caution when a motorcycle is in the expressway since speed is the main consideration there.

Motorcycles with an engine displacement of 400cc and above can normally cope with the sometimes speed-prone flow of traffic in unison with the four-wheeled vehicles in the expressway. Alas, not the two-wheeled motorcycles that have an engine displacement of below 400cc.

Even with the 400cc motorcycle, extra care is already always a necessity. One slight miscalculation by either the big biker or the car driver and an accident can happen. And we know for a fact that a motorcycle passenger or the big biker himself is more prone to injuries than one aboard a four-wheeled vehicle if a collision between both vehicles occurs.

* * *

At the NLE during my never-ending trips to renew my roots in Pangasinan, I rarely encounter big bikes.

That's a good sign because it can mean the Motorcycle Law is being observed and enforced there to the hilt and for which here's a glass anew to Ping de Jesus, the man in charge of keeping order at the NLE.

Same with the SLE, which I also traverse each time my wife (I am her favorite pilot) gets the urge to visit her hometown of Calauag, Quezon, which happens at least four times a year. I also do not see small motorcycles traveling there, another indication that the Motorcycle Law is also being thoroughly implemented there.

* * *

The Motorcycle Law is very specific in that, yes, it allows 400cc bikes on expressways provided that:

- **they have no sidecars and have only two wheels;**
- **only one back rider shall be allowed;**
- **they are roadworthy and comply with all provisions of the LTO;**
- **they travel with their headlights on at all times;**
- **no cargo shall be allowed except for normally accepted saddlebags and luggage carriers designed for motorcycles; and,**
- **they don't "land-split" or overtake in-between lanes.**

In addition, expressway speed limits for the big bikes is a minimum 60 kph and a maximum 100 kph, both the motorcycle driver and its lone back-rider shall each use a helmet and the back rider provided with a seat and a footrest.

I heard of some motorcycle business companies complaining about the law and that's understandable. It's not surprising anymore to see some businessmen value the color of money more than the safety of their customers.

There are laws that hurt but overall, all laws benefit the majority of our people, the Motorcycle Law included. The law is anchored on safety and that's what counts the most.

So to both the SLE and NLE bigwigs, stay your ground, please?

Sensible reason, not to mention a good heart, is on your side.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Ken Angeles, my big biker friend from Davao City, is an ardent advocate of the Motorcycle Law, saying: "The law is the law. We should all follow it, otherwise let's forget all the other laws of the land."

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net.

RCBC pay puzzler

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

DESPITE RCBC POSTING A 31-percent jump in profits last year, the reported 2006 pay package of CEO Rizalino Navarro, vice chair Cesar E.A. Virata, president Francisco Magsajo Jr. and two other top bank officials ironically even headed slightly south.

No, no, the reduction does not have anything to do with the parsimonious Helen Yuchengco-Dee finally assuming last year the bank chairmanship from her father, Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco.

Rather, the reported 2006 package was just a "conservative estimate" that should likely surpass the previous year's, clarified a senior RCBC official.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. reported that Navarro and company would receive an estimated 2006 salary and bonus package of P37.62 million, against their 2005 actual compensation of P39.54 million.

According to the bank clarification, even the 2005 estimated executive compensation package, at about P21 million without bonuses, was way below what eventually was received by yearend by the same management officials.

Still, even with the actual 2005 scale, RCBC seems to be getting a bargain when it comes to executive compensation.

For instance, iBank, despite being a third the size of RCBC and cranking only half the profit of the Yuchengco bank, nevertheless rewarded its president/CEO Ramon Sy and five other top officers P90.4 million last year, more than double what their RCBC counterparts received for the same year.

Incidentally, in her first ever message to the RCBC shareholders, the Yuchengco heiress said the bank was introducing "strict disciplines around the use of capital and human resources."

As well, RCBC was bent on improving its "cost efficiency," part of a five-prong strategy Yuchengco-Dee had introduced to make sure the bank she inherited from her colorful dad would continue to prosper.

Asked what it was like working this time for a female boss, Navarro, a Ramos-era trade secretary, laughed and quickly answered, "It's no different from working for your wife."

Now we understand.

Crossing the fence

HENRY Sy Sr. has been slowly buying up shares in Edsa Properties Holding, which owns the neighboring but fenced-off Shangri-La Hotel and mall complex adjoining Sy's Megamall.

At the rate of the taipan's accumulation, the Sy family should have enough shares and proxies from sympathetic brokers to win one board seat by next year's shareholders' meeting.

At the latest count, SM Development Corp. and Sysmart had a combined 4.84-percent stake in the neighboring property company.

The buy-in is especially significant considering that both the Sys and the Kuok family that controls Edsa Properties plan to eventually redevelop their adjoining, but walled-off open car parks.

Heard through the grapevine

RCBC as a matter of policy does not allow press coverage of its stockholders' meeting. And the bank had all the more reason to uphold the same policy on Monday as taipan Alfonso Yuchengco showed up at the meeting still nursing a lump on the forehead, caused by an unfortunate tumble the 83-year-old patriarch suffered after he missed a down step last week.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net orcocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PNB posts 26% jump in 1st quarter profit to ₱190M

By Michelle V. Remo

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK posted a net income of P190 million in the first quarter, up 26 percent from a year ago, as executives said the bank was bullish about recovering its "old glory" of being one of the strongest banks in the country.

PNB president Omar Mier said the first-quarter income kept the bank on track to meet its full-year target of P760 million, a 21-percent increase from P628 million in 2005.

The bank, which was fully privatized last year following the sale of government shares to the Lucio Tan group, started registering a net income in 2003 following consecutive years of losses. The bank booked a net income of P52 million in 2003 and P353 million in 2004.

Mier said the bank's rehabilitation would officially end in May 2007, but noted that it was able to achieve a net income two years ahead of schedule.

Mier said PNB's income in the first three months of 2006 was attributed to higher revenues from its foreign exchange business and gains from securities trading. It noted that earnings from securities trading reached P2.15 billion during the quarter, up from P1.75 billion a year ago.

In a statement, PNB said its aggressive disposition of non-performing assets accounted for the growth in income. NPLs stood at P28 billion as of end-March, down from P37.4 billion the previous year.

"This year, PNB is gearing toward serving the corporate market niche through responsive products with distinct value propositions," PNB said in a statement, adding that it would launch cash management products in the coming months.

Mier said that PNB's services were focused more on the small- and medium-sized businesses, with two-thirds of its branches situated outside Metro Manila. He said the bank intended to increase its loans to businesses and to consumers, planning to become aggressive in the sale of credit cards.

GSIS

From page B1

While saying it would be ideal if the SSS would agree on a joint sale of shares together with the GSIS, Garcia admitted such a move would not be easy to accomplish given the court case faced by the SSS. The SSS was sued by some legislators who questioned the prudence of its earlier plans to sell the shares.

As it held off plans to sell its stake in the bank, he said the pension fund would aggressively engage in other income-generating activities, such as by investing in foreign-denominated instruments.

Garcia said the GSIS was already in talks with the World Bank, which was tapped to help the GSIS look for a fund manager to handle its billions in available funds for investments.

He added that the GSIS would also seek guidance from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Department of Finance in looking for a fund manager.

Garcia said the GSIS has some P250 billion worth of funds available for investments. The GSIS was looking at investing half of it in domestic instruments and the other half in foreign outlets. He said the GSIS would still decide on how much of the P250 billion would be entrusted to the possible fund manager.

Security Bank exploring acquisition options

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SECURITY BANK CORP., ONE OF the country's most profitable banks, is exploring possible acquisitions that would enhance shareholder value amid accelerating consolidation among banks, its chair, Frederick Dy, said yesterday.

Dy said what would make a good fit is a bank "with a customer base that complements" its own.

"We have always been studying possible acquisitions except that our criteria in any acquisition is it cannot reduce shareholder value so it's got to be positive for shareholder value. Unfortunately, all the institutions available are in bad shape," Dy said.

Dy said that while there was nothing on the table yet, the bank was still carefully studying the market for possible purchases.

While soured loans have plagued banks' portfolios since the Asian financial crisis, the ratio of bad loans to total loans among commercial banks have shrunk in the first quarter to an eight-year low of 8.26 percent, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

In 2005, Security Bank's total non-performing loans (NPLs) were at 5.25 percent, down from 6.7 percent in 2004. The bank's total bad assets ratio has also dropped to 11.2 percent in 2005 from 13.3 percent in 2004.

The bank posted a 50-percent growth in net income to P1.16 billion in 2005, and a 104-percent jump in first-quarter profit to P540 million.

In the first quarter, foreign exchange earnings, securities trading gains, trust fees, asset disposal gains and rental income from foreclosed pieces of property boosted non-interest income, contributing P857 million, or more than double the P422 million a year ago.

Total resources of the bank also stood at P101 billion as of the end of the first quarter.

"The forward-looking, disciplined approach we have taken toward the resolution of our non-performing assets leaves the bank distinctively well positioned to aggressively continue organic growth, yet flexible enough to seize opportunities that arise from the industry's current consolidation trend," Security Bank president Alberto Villarosa told stockholders.

Bank chief finance officer Carlos Borromeo said the bank was poised to achieve a 15-percent growth in net income this year, helped by resilient consumer demand for financing particularly in real estate investments.

Dy said private shareholders of the bank were not thinking of selling out as of this time.

"Right now, we feel our market is growing because we have been carefully focused on the way we conduct our business. We have a big potential. There is really no reason to do so (sell stake to another bank)," Dy said.

Dy and his family own 42 percent of Security Bank while state pension fund Social Security System holds 12.7 percent. International fund manager Arisaig Partners owns 5 percent.

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Tel./Fax : 044-4111007
Email : neeco2@digitelone.com

The Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. now invites Sealed Bids from eligible bidders to bid for assorted scrap (iron/steel), unserviceable electrical equipment/devices office equipment and unserviceable vehicles with a floor price in the amount of one million nine hundred sixty four two hundred twenty five pesos only (P1,964,225.00)

The Bidding Documents may be purchased from Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) Main Office, Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00) in cash beginning May 29, 2006

Sealed proposal will be received by the NEECO II-Committee on Disposal of Non-Performing Assets at NEECO II Main Office on or before 2:00 P.M., June 16, 2005 at which time and place of said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidder or Bidder's authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late submission will not be accepted.

Pre-bid Conference and inspection of scrap materials will be conducted at the NEECO II Main Office at 2:00 P.M. on June 9, 2006

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than ten (10%) percent of the total bid price

The NEECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the cooperative.

ENGR. JOSEPHINE L. BADIOLA
Chairperson Committee on Disposal

(PDI–May 30 & 31, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
Municipality of BANTAY
OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
May 22, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites Manufacturers/Suppliers/Distributors/Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Purchase of Computer and Reading Glasses *P10,000,000.00*

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particular relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedue of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 30, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	May 31, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids and Bid Evaluation	June 2, 2006 @ 2:00 PM
4. Place of Bid Opening	x
5. Notice of Award	x

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable fee (for bid documents). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC and may obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC.

The BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JONATHAN GOROSPE
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 24 & 31, 2006)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of line under the Rural Electrification Program.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a Pre-Qualification and Sealed Bidding for supply of hereunder mention project:

Project : Construction of distribution line for 18 barangays under AWP'06
Location : Norsamelco Coverage area
Contract : Supply of materials
Amount : Php14.0M

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	Pole Line Hardwares	1 lot
2	Conductor, Bare NO. 2 AWG brand Unicon, Phelp Dodge, American Wire Cable	130,000m
3	Transformer double bushing with external tap changer, brand new (Philec, Wagner or equivalent 15kva 25kva	 20 units 2 units
4	Poles: Steel eight sides, 2.5mm thick hot dip galvanized, A36, ASTM 123 a) 30ft/4-top dia-100mm; bottom dia-200mm, 2 sections b) 35ft/4-top dia-120mm, bottom dia-210mm, 2 sections	 131 pcs 457 pcs
5	Supply of labor	1 lot

Bid forms will be issued after passing of Eligibility to Bid and upon payment of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php3,500.00) non-refundable

Acceptance of Letter of Intent Receipt of Eligibility Requirement *(ie. Legal, financial documents, list of similar contract, address, amount date*	June 1-5, 2006
Issuance of Eligibility to Bid	June 5-9, 2006
Pre Bid Conference / Issuance of Bid	June 13, 2006
Documents Opening of Sealed Bid	June 27 @ 10:00 a.m.

Only qualified bidders who were passed during the pre-qualification screening will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bid proposals must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The PBAC will use non discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility check / Screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids. The PBAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest bid.

NORSAMELCO hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

For further information please contact the following no. 09173042872/09173619744/Telfax 055-2518163.

(Sgd.) HENRY C. BANJAWAN
Chairman

Noted by (Sgd.) SALVADOR G. HEENANDEZ
General Manager

(PDI May 31 & June 1, 2006)

clinica manila in SM Megamall @ 1

A reimagineered Center of Excellence

Clients-centered, doctors-driven, technology-savvy and holistic-healing "first multispecialty clinic in a shopping mall" is brought back to the Filipino people for good. Its founder and CEO, Hernando B Delizo, MD, MBA, FPCP, the '"first Filipino health retailer in the private sector," together with his over 100 proactive physicians, nurses, healthcare professionals and workers, mark its 10 years with a great resolve: "Quality health should be made affordable to all Filipinos." Be one with us.

By **Marlet D Salazar**

HEALTH is sometimes determined by one's lifestyle choice. Achieving a certain level of physical fitness, mind conditioning and peace may not be that easy. But with sheer determination and a little help from the experts, it is doable.

People are getting more and more concerned about their health because they realize the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle. They do it through physical activities, relaxation, right diet and constant communication with their physicians.

Nobody wants to get sick. And no one particularly enjoys being in a hospital.

Clinica Manila with its pioneering tradition introduces a revolutionary approach to health that will redefine a whole new outlook on body or physical health that is in synergy with happy and healthy mind, heart and spirit.

"The reimagineering of Clinica Manila is one way of telling the whole world that we are embracing the future," said Clinica Manila of Ambulatory Health Care Institute Inc president and chief executive officer, Hernan B Delizo, MD, MBA, FPCP.

"We want to elevate the image of Clinica Manila from the usual symptomatic approach in the treatment of patients," added Atty Lorenzo Gadon, vice president for administration and corporate affairs. The entrepreneurial Dr Delizo would rather call patients, clients, because not only does the sick go to Clinica Manila.

The multispecialty clinic that is occupying the strategic spot on the second floor of SM Megamall's Building A the only establishment in the colossal mall with a parking entry and exit point has been around for 10 years. It offers various medical services from pediatrics to internal medicine to dental health services and even dermatology.

One of the most important innovations for the medical facility is the introduction of preventive medicine programs. Clinica Manila opens its doors not only to sick people who wanted in for the symptomatic treatment or the usual seeking of cure. The clinic becomes a venue of choice on how to avoid sickness and remain healthy.

Clinica Manila, having been the first to conquer the malls, eventually became a one-stop medical health clinic that caters to people from all walks of life. Initially targeting company clients, it became popular to the upscale market. That will soon expand to C and D social market when innovations are finally introduced today.

Dr Delizo's vision of what could be a haven among health buffs is a dream come true for the stressed out. Work can be very tiring at times; going out can also fatigue a person. Clinica Manila found a solution to all that, making it easier to prevent diseases that stem from stress.

CLINICA MANILA Powerhouse Cast: "Together, We Will Touch the Sky!"

"We are the only and most comprehensive medical facility in the mall that has evolved into something better that everybody needs: health and wellness," Dr Delizo stressed.

Clinica Manila now offers more than what the usual spas offer like massage, healing of the mind and body, relaxation center to empty the mind of the long hard day's stress, only it will still keep the medical health facility.

Combining the two aspects of medical and holistic health allows people to give their bodies their much needed attention and pampering.

"We expanded to give patients, and now clients, a homier environment," Dr Delizo pointed out. "If people keep watch of their health, they can prevent illnesses. They can be detected ahead, and therefore, treatment and cure can be instituted."

Clinica Manila's expertise goes beyond the medical part of being a clinic. Dr Delizo had imbibed to the staff the caring for the sick only Filipinos can give. Filipinos are known to be a caring people; this exemplary trait has been recognized in other parts of the world where there are doctors, nurses, therapists and caregivers. Some countries even require a Filipino to fill in positions that require people to be gentle and compassionate.

"You can copy any product but you cannot copy tender love and caring," Dr Delizo philosophized. "It is only appropriate to lead by example."

More than just the transformation of Clinica Manila into a total health and wellness central, it remains to be the clinical center it has always been known for the past 10 years. The upgrading of equipment and facilities is in line with its commitment to give only the best for the people.

"Clinica Manila has that capacity to provide the surgical services , too," Dr Delizo said. "Surgeries were normally done in hospitals; now it can

➤

DAY SURGERY

EMPLOYMENT CHECK-UP

BEAUTY CARE

DENTAL CARE

Strong foundation keeps stronger ties

Rediscovering what will become the most innovative medical health facility in The Philippines

CLINICA MANILA may not be what it is now if not for the strong foundation that keeps it stable over the years. Experience and knowledge brought it to the forefront of medical and health care in The Philippines.

Clinica Manila was formed by dedicated medical professionals who only wanted to reach out to more people.

Marketing whiz Ramon CF Cuervo III told the Inquirer, years going to 1994, he had his own small "Clinica Manila" that served employees in his company within the Ortigas area. When the Cuervo firm decided to streamline, he made the name of his company clinic available for use by his business partners in 1996.

Cuervo said, Clinica Manila was adapted as tradename of Ambulatory Health Care Institute Inc (AHCII), conceived to become a multispecialty clinic that envisioned to provide highquality and affordable healthcare to the immediate community.

The first seven incorporators of Clinica Manila, all top guns in their respective disciplines, were able to formally incorporate two years later, after several major investors who expressed interest to come in negotiated for more time. Among the original group who remained to see the growth of the facility in the past 10 years are Cuervo, Dr Kelly Salvador and Dr Hernan Delizo. Delizo's Mediserv Inc held a majority shareholding in the AHCII that established Clinica Manila as an ultimate ambulatory or outpatient healthcare central that seeks to help those in the profession to grow and develop as they provide personal healthcare to the general public.

Cuervo wanted to put the record straight, it was Dr Delizo, known for his pioneering efforts, who had the vision of this kind of clinic. "He is the mover and entrepreneur," Cuervo admitted, even without saying he (the latter) has always been a pillar of Delizo and their associates' groundbreaking ventures.

Having a medical clinic in a shopping mall was a novelty then. The site where it is now is the most strategic location for medical services in a mall.

"When my father (who's into real estate) saw the Delizo wisdom of setting up a clinic in a mall, he liked it so much that he even put an exclusive entrance from the parking," Cuervo recalled. Clinica Manila remained the only establishment in SM Megamall with it own rear parking entry and exit.

Several medical service businesses similar to what Clinica Manila is have sprouted over the years. Being the pioneer in this kind of business with social conscience, Cuervo feels that it is more of a compliment knowing that people were able to recognize the innovation.

"Competition also helps service because without it we will be complacent," Cuervo the selfmade salesman idealized. "We have to innovate."

"We are now coming in to a more holistic approach," he said. "Being a Filipino and an Asian corporation, let us open our eyes to Asian medicine."

Cuervo noted, Clinica Manila can now be seen as an extension of their (patients' as clients') own home.

Clinica Manila had gone through several changes.

"The more than 10 years that Dr Delizo spent in studying, researching, developing and perfecting his entrepreneurial skills blossomed into a better Clinica Manila with the latest innovations and improved skills," Cuervo assured. *Marlet D Salazar*

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Most Reliable Chief Graces Clinica Manila's Big Birthday Bash

TIME Magazine's 2005 "Person Who Matter" Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had sent her most reliable chief of staff, Michael Defensor, to represent her administration in the commemorative affair of Clinica Manila at SM Megamall's decade-long quality health service to the Filipino.

Secretary Defensor as special guest speaker of the "first multispecialty clinic in a shopping mall" media event today talks about, among other burning issues of the day in a light manner, President Macapagal Arroyo's Executive Order 372. EO 372 mandates the organization of private and public sector partnerships for health and wellness concerns. This is in accord with the Arroyo's administration's resolve to get The Philippines a substantial chunk of the Asian market.

In September, the Philippine Tour Operators Association (PhilTOA) is hosting the 7th Philippine Travel & Tourism Mart, in which Clinica Manila and its affiliate health companies are key players.

DEFENSOR: Health buff.

Defensor, the President's flagship projects czar for health, wellness and retirement, joins celebrities invited by actress Maricar de Mesa's mother like Maui Taylor, Apreal Tolentino, Cherie Lou, Lovely Rivero, German Moreno and the movie press, together with theMAGAZINE chief editor Marc Guerrero's invitees, such as the only practising ventriloquist in The Philippines today Ronaldo "Ony" Carcamo and his "Nonong" character, comic Jon Santos and other standup artists, as well as the mainstream media, in adding sparkles to the Wednesday afternoon party of health professionals, their clients, and representatives of major pharmaceutical companies, medical schools and hospitals.

theMAG News & Views Team

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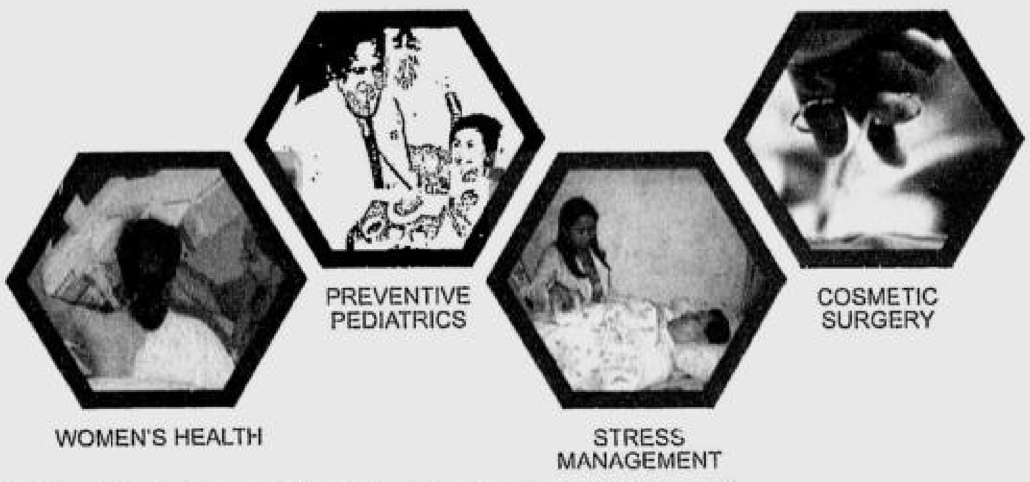


*the*MAGAZINE fetes Clinica Manila on its moving on to the right direction

"TOGETHER, we will touch the sky," a dream put forth in words when two high school campus newspaper buddies met again after nearly 30 years to renew their commitment to journalism.

In no time at all, the words became flesh, in swift (no-nonsense) action, when the good doctor, as publisher, and the writer, as editor in chief, synergized their expertise and experience, with a little help on resources from many friends, to produce what will come to be known as *the*MAGAZINE on tourism, health and entrepreneurship... *Creating Wealth. Sustaining Health.*

With a dry run on the 15th of March 2006 at the ABSCBN lounge during the **Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (QCCCI) annual media event, courtesy of DZMM *RadyoNegosyo* host **Carlito Balita**, president of QCCCI, *the*MAGAZINE Inaugural Edition, dated May 2006, which is soft launched today at the second level of SM Megamall Bldg A, fetes **Clinica Manila**... *Center of Excellence in Health and Wellness* on its 10th anniversary of "moving on and moving up to the right direction."

All-Original News, Features and Views You Can Use

*the*MAGAZINE monthly gloss topbills happy and healthy lifestyle news, features and views on tourism, health and entrepreneurship that real people can use: An aspiring star under the knife whose sculptural works on her body parts through surgery is making her a perfect "vanity daughter of science" (aptly, a new "woman of circa-21," and by how much?), in "Dissecting the Anatomy of Human Body" prologue to "Do you Have to repair, Buy or Donate?" on centerspread pages. **Clinica Manila Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery Group** lists down the costs of major and minor makeover for both the metrosexuals (or *ubersexuals*) and femmes.

"I Survived Breast Cancer with my Breast Friends" is a true-to-life inspirational account by nurse Pearl Imperial of the Breast Care Foundation that complements beauty queen and image specialist **Abbygale Arenas-De Leon**'s small talk about big questions on breast care.

"From Erectus to Resurrectus: Quezon City Exudes Premium Quality," by broadcaster Balita, is cover story. Special report looks into how the 18 deadly diseases on the Dept of Health (DOH) watchlist can be neutralized this year.

*the*MAG on **Tourism** highlights the naturopathic healing mystique of a haven called Mount Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna, while *the*MAGAZINE on **Entrepreneurship** features **Joey Concepcion**, **Anna Marie Periquet** and other **Go, Negosyo!** stalwarts, as *the*MAGAZINE ventures an emerging new ideology, "Economics of Compassion," originally authored by Dr Delizo.

Health-for-all advocate, Dr **Juan Antonio "Jeepy" Perez III**, of the **US Agency for International Development** (USAID)-backed **Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector** (PhilTIPS), writes a regular column "Healthstand," about primary health care, as his maiden issue. *the*MAGAZINE Inaugural also topbills **Jim Paredes** photographs, **Jose "Pinggot" Zulueta** paintings, and the real-and-reel **Patch Adams**' prescription for long life: altruism, laughter, activism.

Not just a good read as usual, the next issues of *the*MAGAZINE as a "sourcebook" becomes a more interesting collectors' edition that both the serious and the leisure readers can keep for a long time, in a library or archive, or as practical reference. It shall carry more substantive ingredients on medical and health tourism, and local & international travel & tours; on health of the mind, body & spirit; health of the economy and health of the nation; environmental health and health of the world (aptly, *world healing*); medical health, alternative health and holistic health; new thought and next schools of thought; and on micro to macro entrepreneurship, with business reviews of small, medium and big businesses. Its centerspread pages shall carry enlightening accounts on beauty, vanity, sexuality and long life. Available in popular outlets, *the*MAGAZINE is now open for business regarding advertising, subscription, circulation, special supplements, special projects and special events with any entrepreneurial individual or entity, here and abroad.

Men and Women Behind the Scenes

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL doctor (or *medipreneur*) described by his colleagues as "first a writer before he is a wealth creator in anything and everything health" is Dr **Hernando B Delizo**, MD, MBA, FPCP, the *the*MAG publisher. The journalist is **Marc Guerrero**, a media management entrepreneur for 20 years, the *the*MAG editor in chief.

the
QC Exudes Premium Quality
Repair, Buy or Donate?
BREAST TALK
TOURISM HEALTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*the*MAGAZINE *Inaugural Edition*

The reunited high school buddies who revived **OutPatient Digest (OPD), Inc** to publish *the*MAGAZINE are ably backed up by nursing dean Carl Balita and **Luis Ramon Rodiguez**, MD, *the*MAG associate publishers; **Willie P Coronel**, art editor, **Carlito "Nonong" Arellano**, art consultant, and **Marvin Myles S Santos**, design intern; **Kelly Salvador**, MD, health marketing incharge, with Lani Bagulo, marketing support, and **Josephine Encarnacion**, subscription & circulation support; **Francis Fullante**, administrative manager, **Fides Santos**, operations manager, and Atty **Lorenzo Gadon**, legal counsel; and a crack team of elder and younger health communicators from the campus press and mainstream media. Houston, Texas' ***FilAm Press*** publisher & editor **Ave Basa**, is first US bureau chief, even as *the*MAG sets up new bureaus in the US, Europe, Middle East and pan-Asia soon.

"Together we will touch the sky," again Publisher Delizo who founded Clinica Manila 10 years ago, told another visiting dignitary from Tokyo, Japan, who had just cofounded with him, 10 years after (today), yet another entrepreneurial venture. The **PhilJapan Wellness! Wellness! Inc**, according to Quezon City Mayor **Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte** in a Sulo Hotel gathering, is the "very first private elderly care home that formally established such a health and wellness center in Quezon City." But that's another story.

"That's thirty: thirty (30:30)," noted editor Guerrero. In journalism, he defined, "you have to write 30 (to end your story), in order to start yet another good story." Expect more good stories from *the*MAGAZINE, Clinica Manila by Ambulatory Health Care Institute and subsidiaries on this day and onwards. ***OPD***

Clinica Manila Generalists and Specialists Roster

PEDIATRICS
Marielese Velarde-Afable, MD
Teldy Chua, MD.
Danny Encilla, MD.
Imelda Asetre Luna, MD
Catherin Galang Magaspac, MD
Leila Roxanne Castillo Reyes, MD
Ma. Cristina L. Santiago, MD

OB-GYNECOLOGY
Annalie Cruz Angeles, MD
Prudence V. Aquino-Aquino, MD
Marie Arlene Azada, MD
Melinda M. Largoza-Javier, MD
Felicitas Manalastas Lector, MD
Ma. Theresa Angeles-Milan, MD
Joanna Biagtan Rey Matias, MD.
Dra. Evangeline Santiago, MD

DERMATOLOGY
Vicky H. De Jesus, MD
Lilibeth De Villa, MD
Elizabeth Dimayuga, MD
Lina V. Hocbo Mendoza, MD
Clare G. Palabyab, MD.
Sachi Salvador, MD
Ma. Luisa Gabon-Santos, MD
Kelly Ann V. Sarte, MD

GENERAL SURGEON
Walfredo C. Arevalo, MD
Joel Cepillo, MD.
Dante A. Fernando, MD.
Tito Garcia, MD
Pierette Yee Kaw, MD
Sherry L. Lee, MD
Ivor Co Tantuco, MD

OPHTHALMOLOGY
Glenn Guzman Milan, MD
Manolito Reyes Reyes, MD
Achelle Cuyugan Ronquillo, MD, ENT
Dwight Torbela Alejo, MD.
Kenneth Ong Baritua, MD
Christopher Bermudez, MD
Ma. Karen Alcantara Capuz, MD
Filipina Tonogbanua Cevallos, MD
Raynald Edlin Palisoc Torres, MD

CARDIOLOGY
Ma. Luisa Banda-Afable, MD
Rodrigo C. Santos, MD
Maita Senadrine, MD

UROLOGY
Randolph "Randy" Barba, MD
Saturnino Luna Jr., MD

GASTROENTEROLOGY
Frederick Dy, MD
Benjamin Gerardo A. Perez , MD

ENDOCRINOLOGY
Hernando B. Delizo, MD, MBA, FPCP

INTERNAL MEDICINE
Roland T. Angeles, MD.
Antonio Aquinas Ines Paulino, MD

ORTHOPEDIC
Manuel Fidel M. Magtira, MD.
Benigno Pujalte, MD.

FAMILY MEDICINE
Alexander Medina Afable, MD
Ralph Curiano, MD
Archimedes Lee, MD
Cristina Victorio, MD

REHABILITATION MEDICINE
Editha Calderon, MD.
Joel R. Contreras,MD.
Charlotte Dela Cruz, MD.
Hiyas Mangubat, MD.
Ma. Victoria Tangco, MD.

RADIOLOGY
Ernesto M. Isada, MD.
James E. Macalalad, MD.
Ciely C. Pastores, MD.

COSMETIC SURGEON
Ma. Editha Filart Gascon, MD., FPAAS, FPCS
Patrick S. De Leon, MD., FPAAS
Rufino Jose R. Agoba, MD., FPAAS, FPSGS, FPCS, FPAHNSI
Samuel L. Malinit, MD., FPAAS
Anthony S. Joson, MD., FPAAS, FPCS
John T. Cenica, MD., FPAAS
Romeo V. Bato, MD., FPAAS

DENTAL MEDICINE
Ernesto Jose G. De Leon, DMD
Ronald C. Yñiguez, DMD
Rodrigo C. Ronquillo, DMD
Roberto B. Tan, FAPO, FWFO, FAAO, FICD
Krissna V. de Guzman, DMD
Arnel T. Celestino, DMD
Almira O. Portia, DMD
Ma. Lourdes F. Barboza, DMD
Margaret S. Lazaro-Conde, DMD
Mary Ann D. Pasion, DMD
Cynthia Custodio-Santiago, DMD
Genevieve F. Lumang, DMD
Kristine Pacete-Estrera, DMD

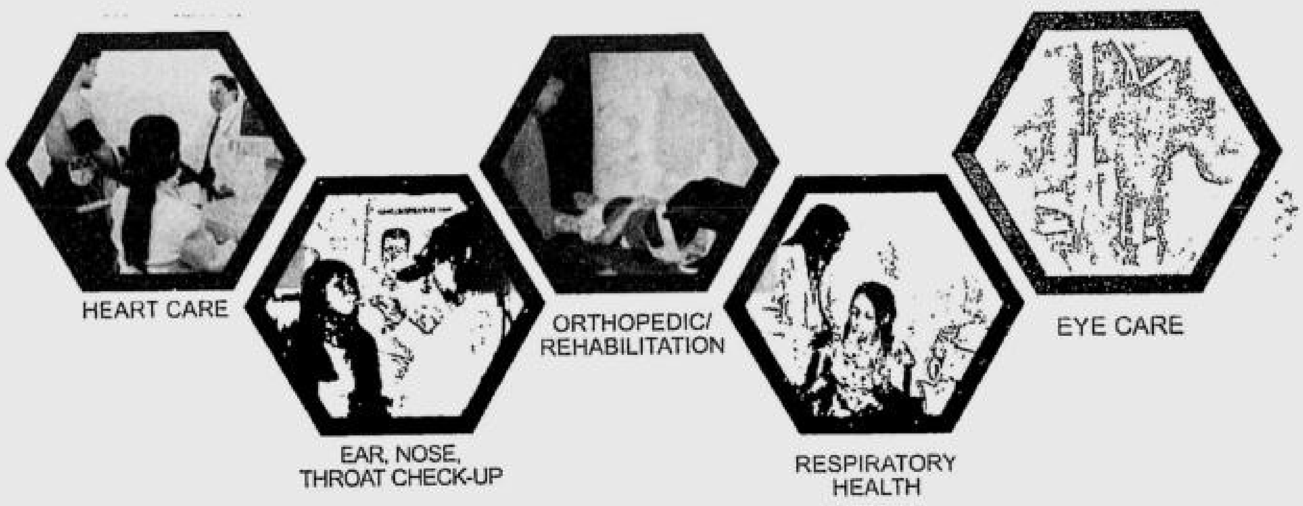
PULMONOLOGY
Angelica Claveria, MD.

ANESTHESIOLOGY
Antoinette Dizon, MD.
Emily Vinola, MD.

PATHOLOGY
Ma. Jocelyn Myra Caja, MD.

GERIATRIC
Miguel A. Ramos Jr., MD.
Rodolfo Joson, MD

ONCOLOGY
Roberto A. Bolinas, MD.



Center of Excellence in Health & Wellness

«

also be done here." Our dermatological and surgical group has the proper venue, facilities, competitive medical staff and accessibility to people who go to malls.

In becoming known to be the center of excellence in health and wellness, Clinica Manila prides itself on the knowledge gathered through its decade of existence.

"The experience and expertise of the people are what distinguished us from the others," Dr Delizo defined. "Technology is a tool and we don't want technology driving us, and enslaving us. Technology should guard our health." Though replete with, and still building up, more high-tech infrastructure, Clinica Manila becomes technology-savvy, only if and when necessary.

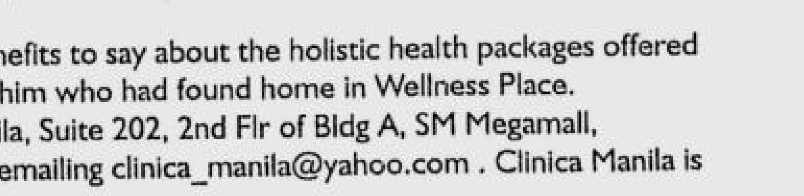
"We want to be known for our excellence in caring," declared Dr Delizo, the "first Filipino health retailer in the private sector." His bloc of over 100 proactive physicians, nurses, caregivers and other healthcare professionals and workers marks Clinica Manila's 10 years with a noble resolve: "Quality health should be made available to all Filipinos."

The enhancement of Clinica Manila is just the beginning of more developments in the future.

"Talk about developing, we are looking at the spectrum of relationships, and even partnerships and cooperation," Clinica Manila founder and CEO Dr Hernando B Delizo concluded, with a modest invitation to his colleagues in the medical profession who are leaving The Philippines in droves . "You can be one with us, or one of us, actually.'
MDS

Clinica Manila's Gold & Silver Mall Milers' Club

Holistic Health Privilege Cards Up for Grabs



PRIVILEGED membership to Clinica Manila's Mall Milers' Club... Your Mega Mile of Health and Wellness, is now open to the public.

Mall Milers holistic health privilege cards are of two kinds, Mall Milers Gold and Mall Milers Silver.

The gold and silver Mall Milers are comprehensive health packages that will help members to monitor their health conditions so as to prevent illnesses, if not to treat or cure existing or recurring ailments.

"It is a perfect 'health watch' for both the well and the unwell," reported the 60-something Danilo Velasquez, president of Aphasia Foundation, the first ever Mall Milers Club gold subscriber, who claims to have lots of good benefits to say about the holistic health packages offered only by Clinica Manila. Velasquez is also a living testimony to the tender love and caring afforded senior citizens like him who had found home in Wellness Place.

Membership application, fees and other information about the Mall Milers Club can be obtained at Clinica Manila, Suite 202, 2nd Flr of Bldg A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, The Philippines; by calling phones (632) 635 3880 or telfax (632) 633 6597; or by emailing clinica_manila@yahoo.com . Clinica Manila is open Mondays thru Sundays from 7 AM to 9 PM. Major HMOs are accredited. #

Cap proposed on text spam exclusion list

By Daxim L. Lucas

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE TEXT SPAM FOREVER, if telecommunications firms will have their way.

According to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), mobile phone companies are insisting on a three-month limit for the proposed "not-to-text" list, which is a database that will be created for all cell phone users who don't want to receive so-called "text spam."

The issue was raised during yesterday's public hearing on text spam at the NTC which was attended by telecommunications firms, third-party content providers and consumer advocacy groups.

"The telcos have no problem with the 'not-to-text' list but they think it will be difficult to implement administratively," NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said in an interview.

"What they're proposing is a three-month lock-in period," he added. "When that expires, [the user] will be able to receive promotional messages again unless they renew [their participation in the list]."

Sarmiento explained that the telecommunications firms were particularly concerned about the administrative difficulties that would be caused by clients who would decide to get on the list one day and withdraw from it soon after.

Regulators feel, however, that a three-month lock-in period for the "not-to-text" list was too long and wanted to give clients greater flexibility to either join or leave it.

"Maybe one month or a month and a half is long enough," Sarmiento said.

Under the proposed memorandum circular, the NTC shall establish a database of all subscribers who do not want to receive broadcast or push messages.

A subscriber who does not want to receive a broadcast/push message shall send a text message to the NTC Text Hotline to be included in the not-to-text database.

Subscribers will then receive an auto reply confirming that he or she has been included in the not-to-text database, or he can personally fill up a form available at the One-Stop Public Assistance Center (Ospac) requesting the NTC to be included in the database.

The NTC will furnish the telecommunications firms and their content providers of the database list within 24 hours for implementation.

During the hearing, advocacy group TXTPower asked the commission to impose a total ban on text spam due to complaints from clients about inconvenience and cost.

The commission said, however, that it cannot impose a total ban on a legitimate business, but instead wants only to curb abuses among the parties offering their services to the general public.

Sarmiento expects the finalized rules to be implemented by mid-June after the NTC reviews all the comments that the involved parties will submit by Monday.

Japan sentiment at 4-yr low

Japanese firms more pessimistic about prospects in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JAPANESE FIRMS' SENTIMENT ON the country dipped to a four-year-low with a rating of negative 15.5 in May.

This was the lowest rating on the Philippines since the negative 25.8 posted in March 2002, according to a survey by Japan External Trade Organization.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes in their business outlook for the current month and the next two or three months ahead.

The answers are expressed as diffusion index, which is derived from the difference between the ratio of positive and negative responses.

A negative diffusion index means that there were more negative than positive responses.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with the same period a year earlier.

Philippine-based respondents in the May survey included 207 firms engaged in businesses involving oil, chemicals, steel, metals, electric and electronic machinery, transportation machinery and other manufacturing concerns as well as construction, real estate, transport, communication, commerce, services and other non-manufacturing activities.

Jetro said that except for Singapore, current sentiment was down for the four countries including the Philippines, which is "viewed as the result of increases in the consumer price index and interest rate rises, accompanied by declining domestic demand in the major countries."

Meralco eyes Napocor power plants

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MANILA ELECTRIC CO. IS CONSIDERING going back to power generation.

In a briefing after yesterday's stockholders' meeting, Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said the distribution utility would initially be looking at some of the National Power Corp. assets up for privatization.

Lopez said Meralco was particularly interested in the 660-megawatt (MW) Tiwi-Makban geothermal facility and the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plant package.

"We have participated in some due diligence. There are many different options that we are looking at, but we certainly see the attractiveness of power generation, judging from the profits of the different generating companies," he said.

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said there was no timetable yet for the power distributor's reentry into the generation sector.

He said the relevance of Meralco's reentry into the generation sector, however, would be more evident upon the implementation of retail competition and open access, which would give large power users the freedom to choose their electricity suppliers.

Almost four years ago, Oscar Lopez, chair of Lopez flagship firm Benpres Holdings Corp., said Meralco could even get out of the distribution business and just focus on power generation.

Despite growth in electricity sales, the Lopez-led firm posted a P748-million net loss in the first three months of the year.

This, however, was better than the P2.2-billion net loss it registered in the same period a year ago.

Qatar Airways constructing world's 1st premium class terminal at Doha International Airport

Dubai, United Arab Emirates - Qatar Airways today unveiled details of the world's only dedicated First and Business Class terminal currently under construction at Doha International Airport.

Yet another first for one of the world's fastest growing airlines, the exclusive building will feature innovative facilities to provide its most loyal customers with the best levels of comfort and hospitality prior to catching their flight. This is part of a US$200million expansion at the current airport.

Passengers travelling in First and Business Class with Qatar Airways will be able to enjoy a hassle-free experience from the time they check-in to departure on one of the award-winning airline's numerous scheduled flights to 70 destinations worldwide.

Speaking at a press conference in Dubai during Arabian Travel Market today, Qatar Airways chief executive officer Akbar Al Baker said the new facilities will cater for business and leisure travellers flying in the premium cabins.

Highlights of the new terminal are: Self-service check-in kiosks for passengers with hand baggage; Dedicated e-gates to speed up immigration formalities; Separate First and Business Class check-in desks; Dedicated First and Business Class lounges, each with their own dining areas; Duty-free shopping area of 1,000sqm selling many leading international brands; Spa, jacuzzi and sauna for passengers to relax and unwind before their flight; Massage treatments; Shower and wash rooms; Children's play area and nursery; Conference room and meeting rooms; Business centre with secretarial services; Free Internet access stations; Prayer rooms for men and women; Medical centre; Five boarding gates; An integral part of the design will be an atrium and water feature in the centre of the building.

Qatar Airways manages and operates Doha International Airport. It will also be responsible for the new premium class terminal, for exclusive use by Qatar Airways passengers departing for their international flights. Access to the new terminal will be via a new road with ample parking space.

Construction of the 10,000sqm building began earlier this year at a site next to the main terminal at Doha International Airport. Dubai-based Mieckraft was appointed by Qatar Airways to design the new terminal interiors. Due to open this summer, the terminal will be operational round-the-clock.

Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker said: "The new terminal for premium passengers will be a big boost for Qatar Airways. It is the first of its kind, not only in the Middle East, but anywhere in the world. Qatar Airways prides itself on providing passengers with the best possible service and hospitality. The new terminal goes one step further by exceeding passenger's expectations. We truly are being recognized as being an industry leader for being innovative."

The new terminal development is part of a raft of improvements currently taking place at Doha International Airport, where the arrival and departure halls are being expanded to cope with the increasing number of passengers flying in and out of the airport.

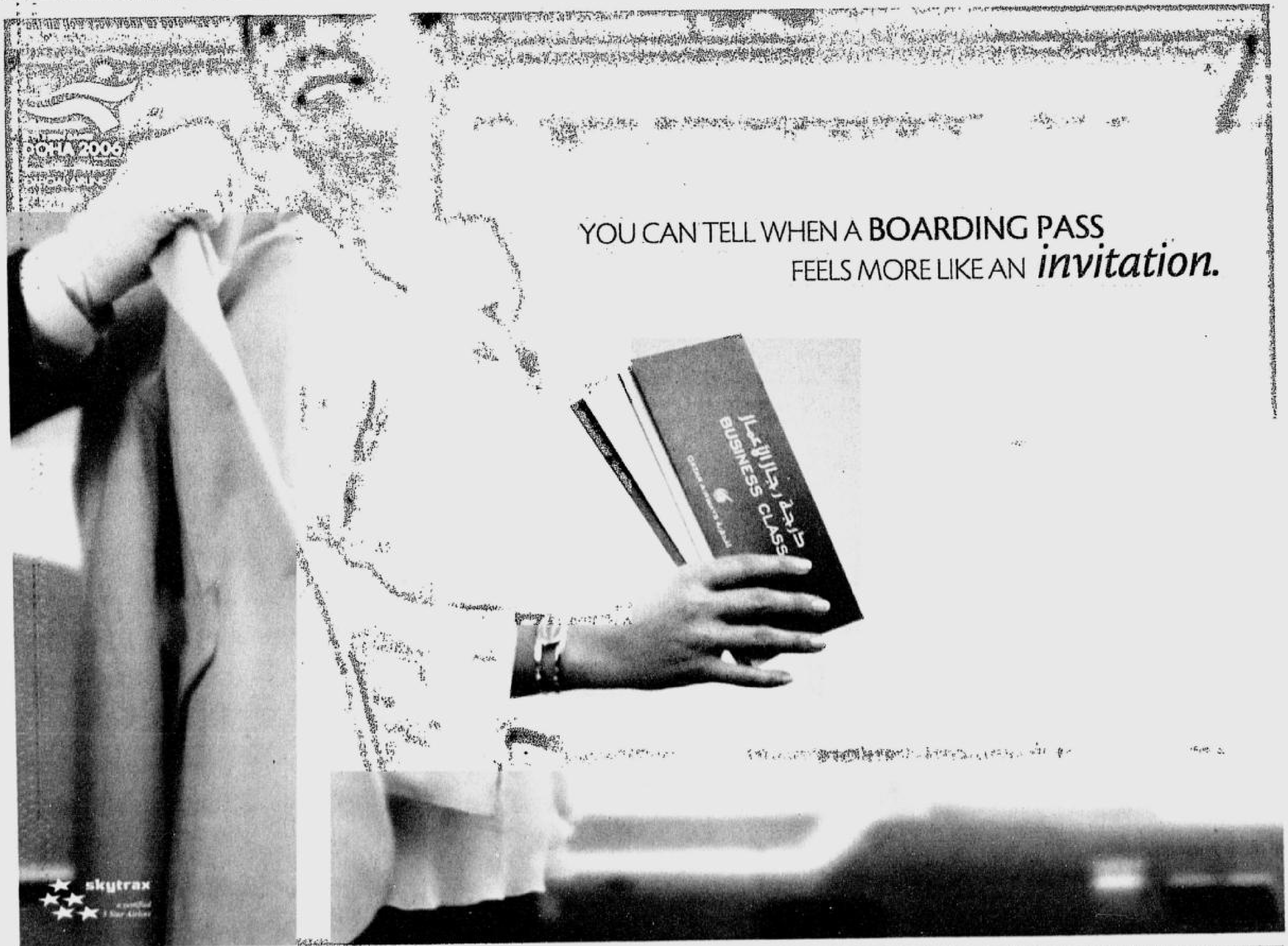
An additional 21,000sqm of space is being added to the existing airport terminal. The number of boarding gates will be increased from 10 to 16; there will be two additional immigration counters; new e-gates in arrival and departure to speed up processing of passengers; and a sharp increase in the number of aircraft parking bays to ease the existing constraints and cope with the huge expansion of Qatar Airways' fleet.

By early next year, the number of parking bays at Doha International Airport will more than double from 19 to 40. Qatar Airways is the airport's largest customer, operating at least 90 per cent of flights.

The airline, which operates 46 all-Airbus jets, will boost its fleet by a further 18 aircraft during 2006 and 2007. The airport expansion will help facilitate the airline's growth.

The airport terminal expansion is due to be completed by June

ADVT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PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47 / 893-1320, Fax No. 840-1575

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AERATED FLUIDS DRILLING SERVICES

EDC 06-068

1. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Aerated Fluids Drilling Services**, under project number **EDC 06-068** having an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of **Philippine Pesos: One Hundred Eighty-Six Million One Hundred Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty and 0/100 (PhP186,110,830.00)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC-Energy Development Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 10:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below starting May 29, 2006 and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Philippine Pesos: Five Thousand and 0/100 (PhP5,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at 10:00 a.m. of June 19, 2006 at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin. Group Office Wall Clock Time)** of **July 3, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount as stated in the Instruction to Bidders. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be immediately after the deadline of submission of bids at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
c/o the Bids and Awards Committee
Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: (632) 893-6001, (632) 893-1320
Fax No.: (632) 840-1461
Email: cag@energy.com.ph
Website: www.energy.com.ph

(Sgd.) **FRANCIS M. DOLOR**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 31, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE 1
Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. Nos. 3400590, 3400594, 3400591; Telefax No. 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : MEZ Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
Location : Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ), Ibo, Lapu-lapu City
Brief Description : Supply of Transportation, Manpower, Equipment and Supervision for the Collection of MEZ Segregated Solid Waste and Proper Disposal of Residual Waste at Designated Area
Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) : P8,592,702.14
Contract Duration : 12 months
Delivery Period : Within 30 days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have a) experience in undertaking a similar/related project within the last three (3) years, b) key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the project, c) a Permit to Dispose or an Agreement to Dispose with a DENR recognized sanitary landfill or controlled dumpsite and d) must not have an existing scrap buying business within MEZ I and MEZ II. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 31-June 13, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	June 16, 2006 2:00 p.m.
3. Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	June 30, 2006 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	July 1-6, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	July 7-12, 2006

Complete set of Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 to PEZA-MEZ I Cashier. Bids and other communications may be addressed to MEZ Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd Flr., PEZA Admin Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City.

The pre-bid conference and opening of bids shall be conducted at the Conference Room, 2/F PEZA Administration Bldg., Mactan Economic Zone I, Lapu-lapu City.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **BELENA B. SUELLO**
MEZ BAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 31 & June 8, 2006)

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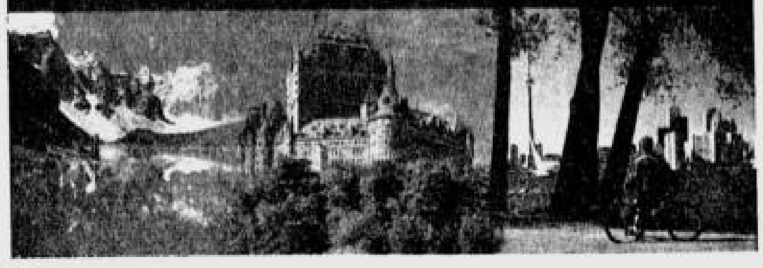

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Brought to you free of charge by Hoppe Bruner, a Canadian based Immigration Law Firm and FDR Relocation Pte Ltd., in collaboration with Desjardins, a leading Canadian Bank, this seminar will be held at :

Venue: CEO Suites, Philippines
Date: Saturday, June 3rd, 2006
Time: 1pm and 4pm

Seize this exclusive opportunity to secure your future and contact us for reservation as seats are limited at

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Email: hoppe-fdr@rogers.com

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1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
1 Lot Impact Assessment of LANDBANK Information Technology (IT) Projects and System Development Life Cycle (SDLC) Documentation	P 4,000,000.00	LBP Funds

Interested consultants must submit their LOIs and secure the checklist of Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00. The deadline for the submission of Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: June 7, 2006, 1:00 PM at General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila. Only those that are eligible will be entitled to procure the Bid Documents, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00, and submit bids.

The BAC shall determine the eligibility of interested consultants in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) and other government rules and regulations. Other eligibility requirements are the following:

a. Must have at least five (5) years experience in conducting Post-Implementation Evaluation of System Project
b. Must have at least three (3) completed and/or on-going contracts similar to the item for bid, for the last two (2) years at least equal to 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract
c. Must have at least one (1) Post Implementation Evaluation and one (1) SDLC Documentation projects successfully implemented.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least 60% interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

LANDBANK shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS) procedure. The weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial proposals shall be 75% and 25%, respectively. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Bid Documents.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - May 24 & 31, 2006)

GfK **GfK NOP**

A Market Research company with headquarters in New York, London and Nuremberg

is urgently looking for

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

- College graduate with at least 10 years research experience, with both qualitative and quantitative research exposure, 7 years of which spent designing methodologies and overseeing running of projects
- With prior group moderation experience and highly proficient in analysis, report writing and oral presentations

RESEARCH MANAGER

- College graduate with at least 5 years, qualitative research experience
- Adept at group moderation, analysis, report writing and oral presentations

THOSE WITHOUT PRIOR MARKET OR CONSUMER RESEARCH BACKGROUND NEED NOT APPLY FOR ABOVE POSITIONS

CREATIVE WRITER

- Preferably with experience writing for magazine, company newsletters etc.
- Has experience writing reports/articles using research data

Please submit a letter and comprehensive resumé by June 15, 2006 via e-mail to **Au-au.Garcia@gfk.com** or mail to

The HR Manager
GfK NOP
25/F The World Centre
330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200

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DESIGN MANAGERS (2)

for its newly established Design Division. The incumbent of this position will be in charge of the management and administration of this Division. He/she should have extensive knowledge on the conceptualization, designing, implementing and testing of different models of Fan Motors as prescribed by our customers. Accordingly, the candidate is expected to know very well all the processes involving the production of a Fan Motor. He/she must also have previous hands on experience in handling at least five people in a similar managerial capacity. A minimum of 10 years experience in a manufacturing company is required.

QA SERVO MANAGER (1)

Must have at least 10 years of extensive knowledge in the production and quality processes of Servo Motors. The job encompasses not only incoming quality inspection of raw materials but including quality assurance of Servo finished products. The incumbent must also be knowledgeable in the operation of different quality-testing machines and equipments and familiar with its maintenance as well.

All applicants for the above positions should be able to speak, read and write Nihongo.

Interested applicants should send their resumé with 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

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More Classified Ads on pages A4, A8, A14, A15, A22 & B5.

NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARIES

ASUNCION C. BALAMBAN

of Mauban, Quezon

Peacefully joined the Lord on May 30, 2006 at the age of 86.

Her only child Dulce; grandchildren Franco and wife Cecy, Pamela and husband Isko, and Sheila and husband Quito; her loving great grandchildren Philip, Dulce, Patrice, Migoy, Isabelle, Dbee and Maddie; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City

Interment will be on June 4, 2006

Death Notice

PURIFICACION M. LOPEZ
Died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 27, 2006 at the age of 61.
Interment will be tomorrow
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

— oOo —

CHRISTOPHER SETUBAL
Interment will be tomorrow, May 31, 2006,
1:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial, Sucat.

"Rest thee our dearly beloved for you have fought a gallant battle.
your life, a reflection of human goodness."

SOCRATES HONTIVEROS TIROL

(of Tangalan, Aklan and Malabon City)

took his rightful place in the glorious Kingdom of our Lord on May 29, 2006 passing away peacefully amid the presence of his loving family at the age of 86.

His loving wife **Laura Cruz-Tirol**, together with their children, **Vickylou** and **Rolly Labios**, **Agnes** and **Ben Padre**, **Bridget** and **Dale Zimmerman**, **Plato** and **Teya Tirol**, **Aristotle** and **Ethel Tirol**, along with their grandchildren and great grandson, his brother **Orestes H. Tirol**, and their relatives and friends request for your gracious, heartfelt thoughts and prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

HIS BODY LIES IN STATE AT LA FUNERARIA PAZ,
G. ARANETA AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
CREMATION WILL BE ON JUNE 4, 2006 AT 3:00 P.M.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life." –John 3:16

OBITUARIES

So Lovingly Remembered
on the 24th Death Anniversary
of our Beloved

CORAZON SEVILLA VIRAY

who passed on the eternal life on 31 May 1982

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

San Jose Parish Church, *Navotas, M.M.*	6:00 AM
The Parish of the Lord Divine Mercy, *Sikatuna Village, Q.C.*	6:00 PM
Christ the King of the Universe Parish *Bagbag, Q.C.*	7:00 PM
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *UP-Diliman, Q.C.*	6:00 PM
Santissimo Rosario Parish, *UST, Manila*	6:00 PM
Sto. Domingo Church, *Q.C.*	6:00 PM

The family request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

PAZ **LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.**
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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
PRIMO HERNANDEZ	Chapel B-8, Q.C	May 31, 2006, 12:30 PM	Paz Crematory
SEVERINO RELUCIO	Chapel C, Q.C.	May 31, 2006, 9:00 AM	Holy Cross Memorial Park
SEGUNDINO BOLAÑOS	Chapel C11, Q.C.	June 3, 2006; 7:00 AM	Our Lady of Eternal Peace San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

China a help to RP, for now

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOKYO—CHINA'S PHENOMENAL GROWTH is helping along the growth of smaller neighbors like the Philippines as developing Asia veers toward trade niches, said the Asian Development Bank Institute.

John Weiss, research director of the Japan-funded think tank said, however, in an interview with the INQUIRER that countries like the Philippines should be nimble enough to move to another product niche once they start losing their markets to China.

"The key thing is that countries are flexible enough. If a country is losing market share in one product, it must move quickly to another product," he said.

Weiss said that for export-oriented Southeast Asia, the gains from China's expansion were outweighing the losses.

While these countries may not be doing enough at present, he said the great potential for growth was there.

"There are always risks, but a very rapid growth of a big market like China also offers great opportunities for investors in Southeast Asia," Weiss said.

About 60 percent of Philippine exports directly compete with China's products. The share is even higher for Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia at roughly about 70 percent, based on estimates of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"Flexibility remains critical. One has to be able to compete in a range of sectors. The big point is: China is competing both in the high-technology end of the spectrum, with the Singapores of this world and the low-end of the spectrum like Cambodia and Vietman," Weiss said.

Weiss was a panelist in a discussion on the impact of China and India on developing Africa, Asia and Latin America at the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) organized by the World Bank.

Ecozones' earnings up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOTAL EXPORT EARNINGS FROM THE country's economic zones rose about 10.5 percent to $10.7 billion in the first four months of the year from $9.6 billion a year ago, according to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Peza reported that the four public ecozones yielded a total of $2.5 billion in receipts from January to April, an improvement of about 17 percent from $2.1 billion in the same period last year.

Among the four public ecozones, Baguio City Economic Zone exported $1.1 billion worth of goods; Cavite Economic Zone, $683.2 million; Mactan Economic Zone, $529.2 million; and Bataan Economic Zone, $134.1 million.

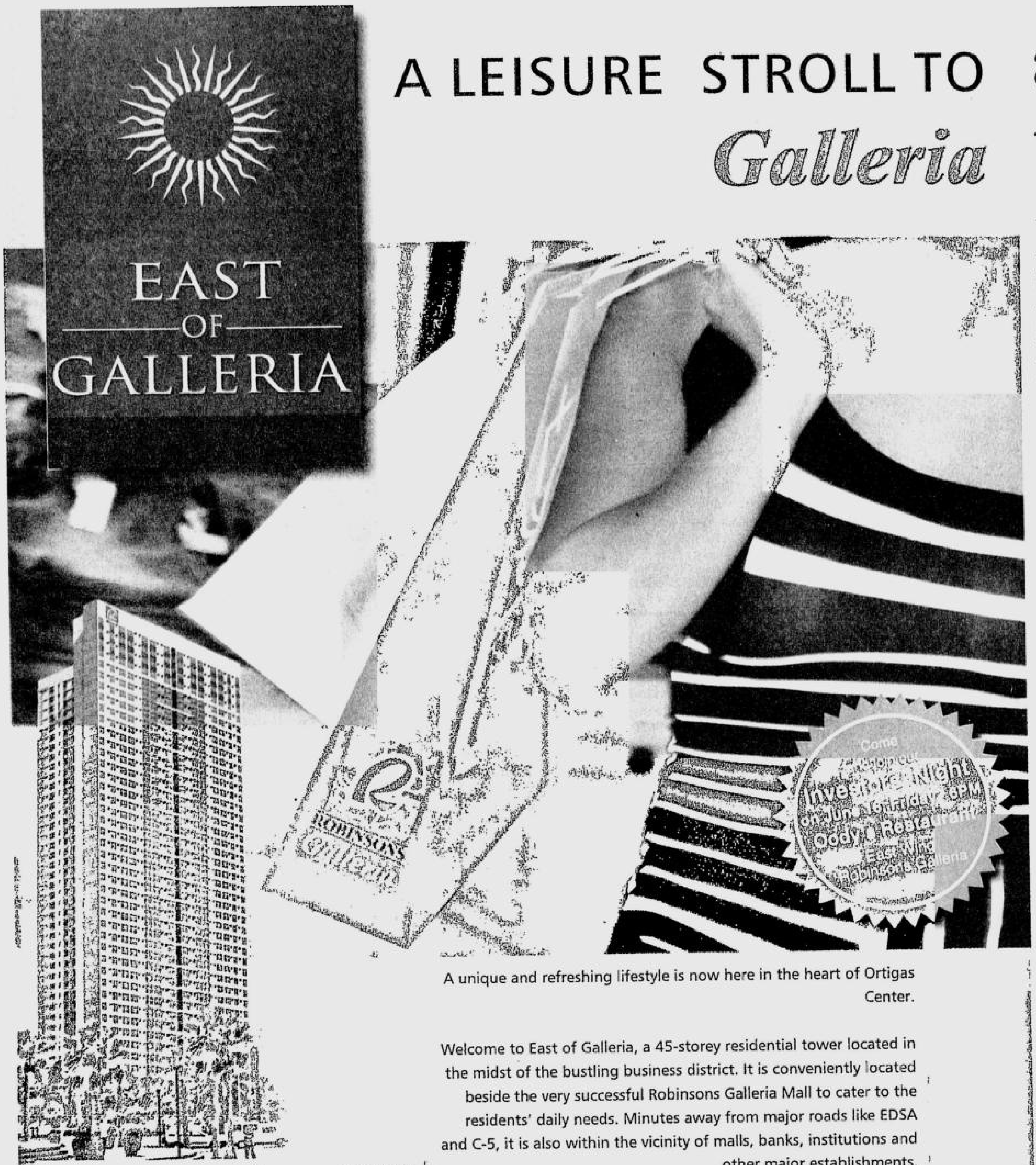
Baguio showed a 34-percent increase while the other three recorded increases of between 5.3 percent and 7.3 percent.

The 42 private or special economic zones (SEZ) shipped out a total of $7.9 billion worth of products, an increase of 6.8 percent from $7.4 billion in the first four months of 2005.

The top five SEZ exporters were Laguna Technopark Inc. at about $1.8 billion; Gateway Business Park, $1.7 billion; Amkor Technology SEZ, $655.8 million; Carmelray Industrial Park I, $533.3 million; and Leyte Industrial Development Estate, $371.8 million.

Among the top five performers, Leyte Industrial showed the best growth of 42 percent while Laguna Technopark suffered a 1.2-percent decrease.

Information technology parks and buildings—numbering at least 26—performed the best as they earned $254.3 million in receipts or an increase of 139.5 percent from $106.2 million.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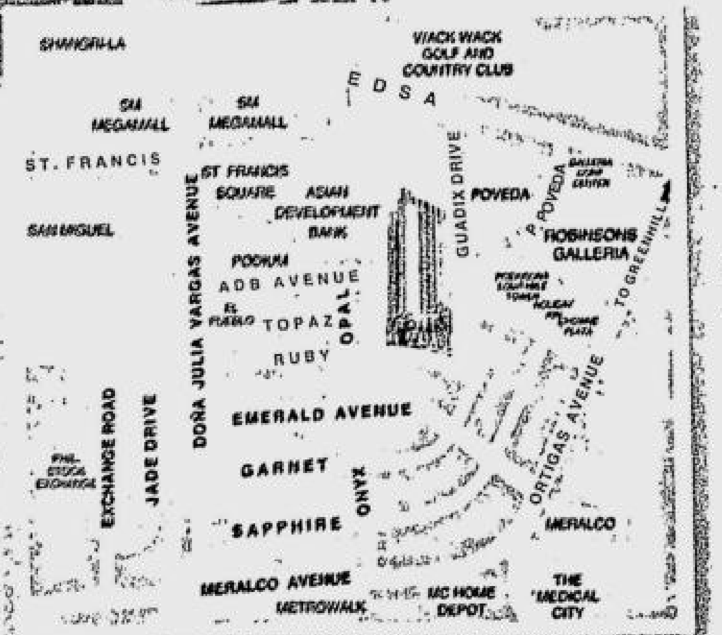
East of Galleria truly embodies the ideal of comfort and convenience, offering the best of both worlds with the choice of either bi-level or loft-type units. Available in one, two and three-bedroom units, East of Galleria assures residents of utmost privacy in condo living as the master's bedroom is located a level above the dining, kitchen and living areas. High ceilings, airy atmosphere and expansive glass windows feature breathtaking views of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club as well as a multitude of magnificent skylines.

At the heart of the busy city lies a comfortable and affordable home, here at East of Galleria.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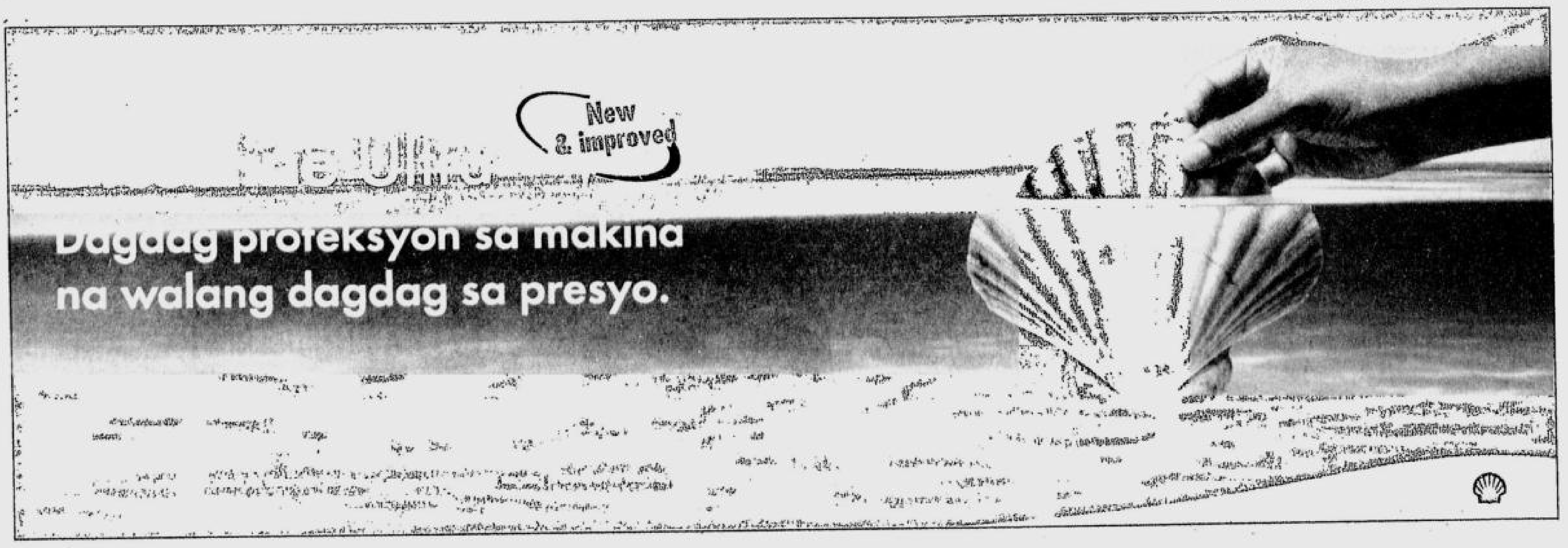
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2bU!
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Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**
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Bye bye, summer. Hello, school

Nobody really looks forward to facing teachers and wading through homework once again. But in the first of 2bU!'s back-to-school issues, we bring to you things you can get excited about—like the prospect of a new school wardrobe. If your school requires you to wear a uniform, you can still have fun, with tips to make your classroom days prettier, scents to make you stand out and watches that match your school's colors. Next week, we'll focus on the more substantial stuff—from making a good impression on your teachers and stocking up on sleep for hectic days, to study tips from smart kids and lessons from grads. And because 2bU! wants to be a part of your school life from June to March and after, we'll tell you how you can be our campus eyes and ears. Oh yes, back-to-school can be cool, too.

2bU! campus eyes and ears

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S going on in your school. Is there a teacher who deserves to be given kudos? Maybe we can treat her to a day at the spa. Does your cafeteria food suck? Perhaps it's time to give your cook a wake-up call. Do you think your school's restroom deserves an award (for being the best or the worst—you tell us)? Was enrollment a horrific experience? Is there a growing trend in your campus? What words do you and your friends use? Is there anything going on that we can help you with? Like maybe help you decorate your halls for an event? Or solve a big mystery?

What is going on in your school?

We want you to be our Campus Eyes and Ears.

Feel free to e-mail us at Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Send us photos, send us videos, send us letters, requests, reports, send us anything, anytime. No story is too small.

Students who send us stories that end up on our pages will receive gifts from 2bU!

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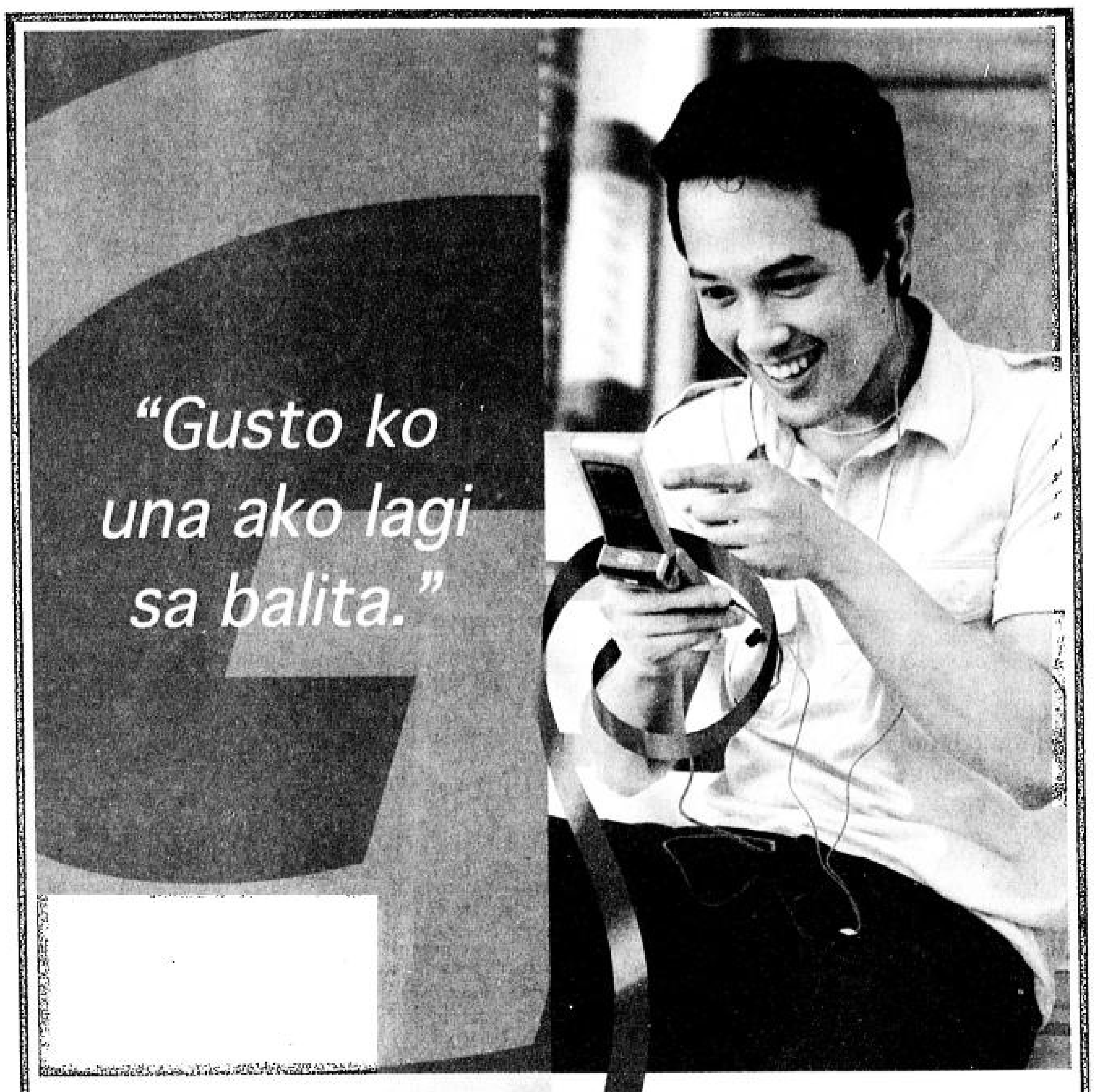
"Gusto ko una ako lagi sa balita."

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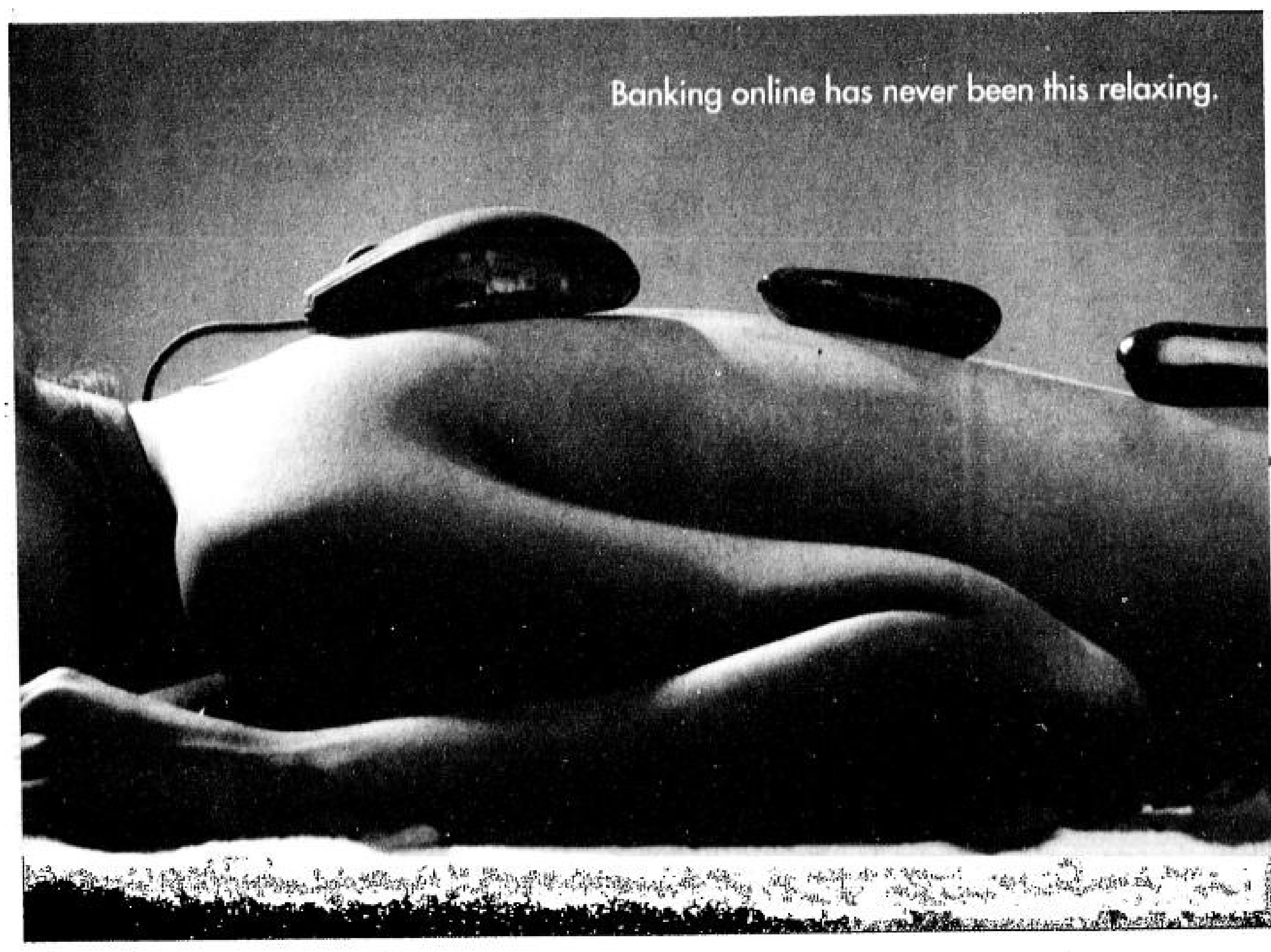

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JEEPNEY JOYRIDING
On Nikka: Blue fishball shirt, Team Manila from Store For All Seasons; jeans, Karimadon. On Camille: White halter, Freeway; gray gaucho pants, Karimadon. On Chesca: Purple embroidered top, Freeway; jeans, Viktor Jeans

All dressed up for school

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jake Verzosa

FOR MANY STUDENTS, THE first day of college promises a significant event: their first time to wear casual clothes on a non-occasion to school. So, they bring out their nicest outfits for the first few weeks or so, forgetting that it's school and not a soirée they're going to (especially in the coed universities).

While tube tops and wedge heels look good on the catwalk, they don't perform as well in slippery hallways and oil-coated cafeteria floors. While studying for those killer Math finals, the last thing you would want to worry about is your clothes, so avoid wardrobe malfunctions with clothing that suits the weather and the venue. So unless you want to flash the whole world, don't wear a miniskirt in the midst of a typhoon.

It would also be a good thing to follow the school dress code, if there's any. Sure, rebellion might show individuality and merit you some points for being cool, but at the same time, it also shows disrespect and disregard for the authorities and the institution itself. If you must be a nonconformist, do it in a discreet way, and try not to offend anyone's sensibilities. Or better yet, show your nonconformity in your way of thinking, not your clothes: After all, ideas last longer than fashion.

> Invest in jeans that can go with basic tees or dressy tops, and will last you through years of sitting on the ground to do projects

At the same time, it won't do to look like a used rag on the first few weeks of school (that particular honor belongs to the seniors doing their thesis). So pick clothes that are fashionable but utilitarian. Veer away from stuff that easily gets dirtied or damaged, and pick clothes that can be matched with a lot of the items already in your closet. Start with the basics, and you're on your way to smart dressing.

Get a good pair of jeans. Forget the overly trendy Greenhills variety and invest in jeans that can go with basic tees or dressy tops, and will last you through years of sitting on the ground to do projects. Try Viktor Jeans at The Podium for the best-fitting jeans in the area (you can have them custom-made, too).

Personalize. Wear statement shirts that reveal a little bit of your personality. Who knows, they can become conversation pieces to help you break the ice when you meet your new classmates. The Store With No Name (Robinsons Galleria and Eastwood City Walk) and Store For All Seasons (Shaw Boulevard) offer personalizing services, but you can also get creative and make your own shirts.

Wear a bit of makeup. We don't encourage you to bring out the false lashes and red lipstick, but a bit of blush and gloss can make a big difference in the way you look and feel. Exert a little more effort in your morning routine, but never sacrifice school for extra mirror time. Carry around a multitasking product that can help you go from Chem class to a trip to the mall with your friends to reward yourself for acing an exam.

Wear comfortable shoes. Havaianas lovers may not be too happy about this, but the rainy season brings floods, which in turn can transmit germs to your exposed feet. Get a pair of comfortable but stylish sneakers to get you through the first few months of school. Check out Pony shoes for their Paul Smith-inspired designs.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

VARSITY
SWIMMING

SCHOOL YEARBOOK
On Nikka: Brown miniskirt, Store For All Seasons; yellow tank top, Freeway; pink jacket, Karimadon; pink sneakers, Pony. On Chesca: Pink shirt, Team Manila from Store For All Seasons; plaid Bermuda shorts, Karimadon; bag, Store For All Seasons; pink sneakers, Pony. On Frank: Brown Choc-Nut shirt, Store For All Seasons; jeans, Viktor Jeans. On Alexis: "Varsity Swimming" shirt, Store For All Seasons; white sneakers, Pony. On Camille: Red top, Karimadon; stretch jeans, Viktor. All accessories by Happy David.

My Parents are Nuts

COOL COEDS
On Frank: Manila Nights shirt, Tabo (at Tonic and I Love You); jeans, Viktor; khaki sneakers, Pony. On Nikka: Shirt, Store For All Seasons; capris, Freeway. On Alexis: Shirt, Store For All Seasons; jeans, model's own; sneakers, Pony

FRESH-FACED
Check out The Body Shop's latest offerings for that fresh-faced look for class. Need to refresh tired skin? Try the Vitamin C capsules. Want to retain your summer glow? Go for the Sun Dome, a palette with pink-and-bronze hues to brighten up your face. Sweep your eyes with a bit of cream-to-powder eye shadow and slick on some light lip gloss for the perfect *colegiala* look.

HAIR AND MAKEUP: TATIN YANG (0917-8382846). ACCESSORIES: HAPPY DAVID (RUSTAN'S OUTLETS GATEWAY CUBAO, ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA, RUSTAN'S MAKATI, XOXO AND SHANGRI-LA). MODELS: CAMILLE CRUZ, NIKKA CONSUNJI, CHESCA SUMILANG, FRANK MAGALONA AND ALEXIS SARMIENTO

WANT TO KEEP pimple-free throughout the schoolyear? Make sure you have a good skincare regimen. Try the VMV Hypoallergenics SuperSkin line of facial wash, moisturizer, toner and sunscreen (yes, you need sunscreen even if the sun's not out).

Rotten to the CORE

BLACK "Rotten to the core" shirt, Store For All Seasons

WANT TO LOOK J-Pop? Try Fasio cosmetics, a line of Japanese cosmetics that are easy on the pocket but deliver good results. Try their eye shadow duos, foundation with SPF, lip gloss and oil-blotting papers (perfect for touch-ups in between classes).

OLIVE-GREEN tank top with sequins, Store For All Seasons; striped mini, Freeway

IF THERE'S ONE beauty product you must have for school, it's the Bobbi Brown Peony Shimmerbrick compact. The various strips of pink can be used alone or swept together as blush—good for going from class to Friday night gimmicks after school.

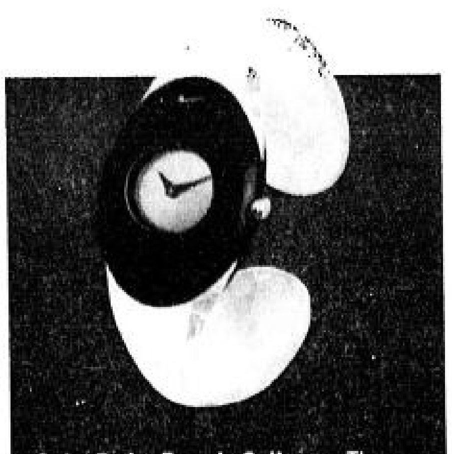
BLUE floral top, Karimadon; white cropped pants, Freeway; white-and-green sneakers, Pony; necklace, Happy David

Campus timepieces

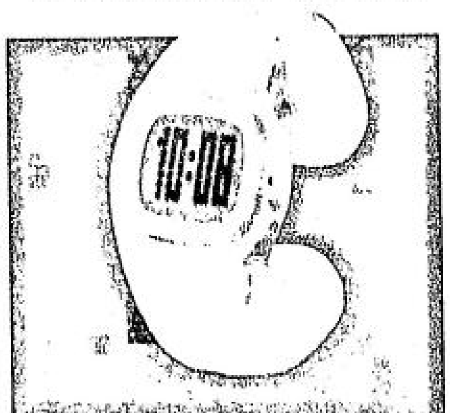
NIKE TIMING OPENS THE school year with its new line of watch designs.

Since students from the country's top schools are required to wear uniforms, Nike suggests various timepieces to match their uniforms. All Nike Timing watches combine fashion and functionality, fit for the modern student.

St. Scholastica's College—Scholasticans' uniforms are more classic, with the signature dark blue jumper-skirt and white blouse. Due to its conventional design, a nonconventional timepiece like the recently released Mettle collection would add spunk to this uniform design. The Mettle Collection features the Nike Hammer and Anvil. Both designs have a 100-m water resistance, a chronograph, cross-cut metal buttons, mineral glass crystals, polyurethane strap, stainless steel bezel, buckle and back plate. Basic features include time, date, two alarms and two time zones.



Saint Pedro Poveda College—The uniform of Poveda is the distinct yellow-orange checkered fabric. For this, Nike suggests the Presto Duo from its signature Gold Collection. High-polish clear coat straps accentuate the pop of gold on black. It has a 30-m water resistance, analog display, hand-polished nylon finish, polished chrome hands and a nylon bracelet.



Miriam College—Miriam College's uniform combines the colors beige and green. A simple white Presto Digital Smooth timepiece will complete the get-up. Presto is a bangle timepiece watch made with nylon, making it lightweight and flexible. Other features include a 30-m water resistance, battery hatch on back plate, time, date and chronograph.

La Salle Greenhills, Ateneo de Manila University and Xavier School—Boys' schools in Manila generally have the same uniform: a white- or light-colored polo with khaki or black slacks. The common difference is the polo top that usually bears the school's logo. Young boys are more active physically, so an equally energetic timepiece like Nike Timing's Triax Fly makes a perfect match. The watch has a 50-m water resistance and is adjustable to a 12- or 24-hour time. Its aluminum face shield gives excellent protection. Other features include a chronograph, countdown timer, pre-curved urethane strap, stainless steel buckle and back plate, time, date, and two alarms.

For high school boys, meanwhile, a good watch would be Nike's Oregon Series Square Digital Leather. It has a 100-hour chronograph, interval timer and data recall, 100-m water resistance, three time alarms and one hydration alarm. Other features include a battery hatch on the back plate, a high-contrast LCD display, mineral glass crystal, screw-anchored strap, stainless steel case and waterproof leather band.

Nike Timing watches are available at all L Time Studio boutiques and authorized Nike Timing outlets nationwide.

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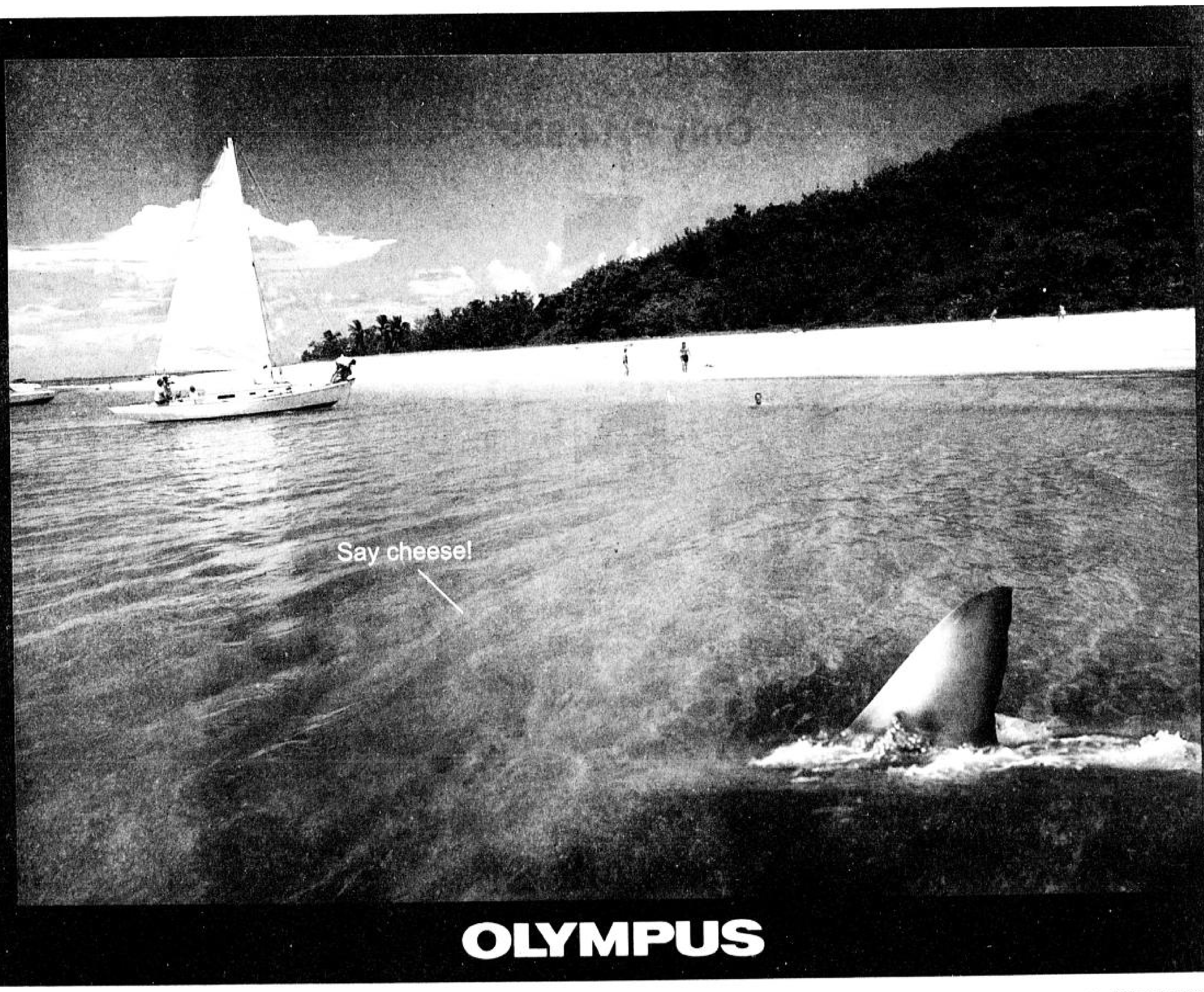

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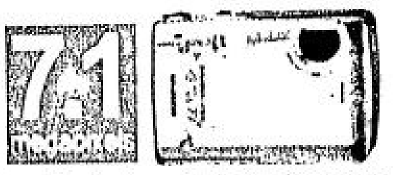


Smells like school spirit

By Pam Pastor

Stand out in the uniform-clad crowd with these hot scents

OH YES, IT'S TIME to hit the classroom once again. And if the thought of wearing that darn uniform day after day after day is bringing you down, there are ways you can stand out without being asked to step out.

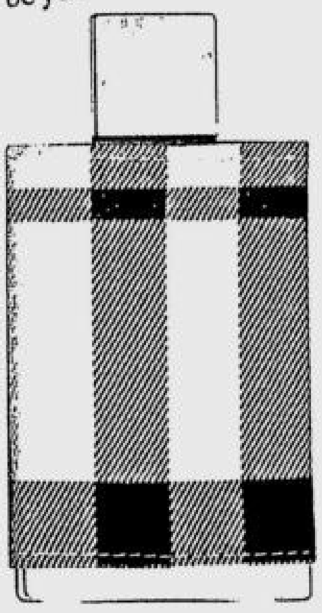
Wear nice shoes, experiment with your hairstyle and spritz on a hot new fragrance. We scouted around for some of the beauty world's sweetest olfactory offerings. And on this page are some of our favorites. Here's a tip: when it comes to buying fragrances, don't let the gender labels dictate your choice. Some scents for guys smell great on girls, too, and you'll be surprised how feminine scents can make a guy smell fresh and clean all day.

CASSIS ROSE
EAU DE TOILETTE
30 ml (1.0 US FL OZ)

The Body Shop's Cassis Rose Eau De Toilette

P1295 for 30 ml. Available at The Body Shop stores nationwide.

The Body Shop waved its magic wand and trapped the romantic scents of roses and ripe berries in a bottle. Flirty, feminine and fun, Cassis Rose is a delightful mix of raspberry, blackcurrant, roses, freesia, violets, musk, sandalwood and cedar wood. And if you really want to layer on the scent and make sure it stays from first period to last, check out the entire Cassis Rose collection—there's also a soap, a shower gel, a body lotion, a body mist and even a perfume oil.



Burberry London

Available in 100-, 50- and 30-ml sizes.

A bottled tribute to London, the fragrance was created for a woman as multi-faceted as the city—sophisticated, eclectic, soulful and vibrant. Composed by Dominique Ropion, the Burberry London fragrance is the combination of the delicious smells of rose, celementine, honeysuckle, tiaré flower, peony, jasmine, sandalwood, musk and patchouli. The scent is sweet, floral and subtle. The fragrance is complemented by two other products— The Delicately Floral Shower Gel and The Delicately Floral Body Lotion.

CLEAN
FRESH LAUNDRY
Eau de Parfum
2.14 Fl. Oz. (60mL)

Clean Fresh Laundry

P3950 for 60 ml. Available in Rustan's Essenses Makati, Tower, Alabang, Cebu and Robinson's Place.

Clean Fresh Laundry's tagline reads: "No frills, no hassles. Just clean." And we couldn't agree more. The people behind Clean Perfumes used the notes of Brazilian Orange, Rose Otto, Night Blooming White Jasmin, Cotton Blossom and Mexican Lime to create an irresistibly fresh scent which would remind you of newly laundered towels straight from the dryer. Clean Fresh Laundry is a must for people who want that freshly showered feeling to last all day. There is nothing intoxicating about this fragrance—it is light, it is fresh and it really smells clean.

Comptoir Sud Pacifique's Eaux du Voyage

Available at Rustan's Essenses.

Give yourself the gift of eternal vacation with a bottle of Comptoir Sud Pacifique. Each scent in the Eaux du Voyage line is an alluring blend of smells that bring forth images of sunshine and escape. One spray is all it would take to transport you to exotic places and dreamy destinations—yes, even when you're in school. Comptoir Sud Pacifique offers different scents falling under six categories: Vanilla Island, Equatorial Forest, Tropical Garden, Exotic Orchard, The Way of Spices and Sun Waters. Our favorites include Aloha Tiare (the sensual blend of frangipani leaf, tiaré flower, ylang, monoï, coconut, benzoin, vanilla and musk), the rich and delicious Amour De Cacao and the fresh and fruity O Pomelo. Choose the scent of your escape.

L'Occitane Green Tea With Mint

Available at Rustan's Essenses.

If you loved L'Occitane's Green Tea fragrance, you'll also love Green Tea With Mint. The hint of mint gives this limited-edition scent an extra dose of energy and freshness. The combination of bitter orange, orange and sweet mint essential oils, green tea extract, mate absolute, jasmine, musk, cedar and thyme is a delight. L'Occitane offers many green tea-scented products—both for the body and for the home. Aside from the fragrances, their wide range includes a body gel, a shower gel, sugar cubes for the bath, towelettes, home perfumes, candles and incense and incense burners.

ISM Deauville

Available at Rustan's Essenses.

Named after a town famous for its races and film festivals, ISM Deauville is an energizing and sophisticated scent for men. One of the three fragrances made in France under the Inno Sotto Mondo line, Deauville is the result of three years of work. The citrus smells of bergamot and tangerine, mixed with green tea and injected with the musky scents of cedarwood and musk, create what is said to be the freshest of the three fragrances. Deauville is fresh, energizing, soft and strong at the same time.

ACCA KAPPA
ACQUA DI COLONIA

Acca Kappa's White Moss Acqua di Colonia

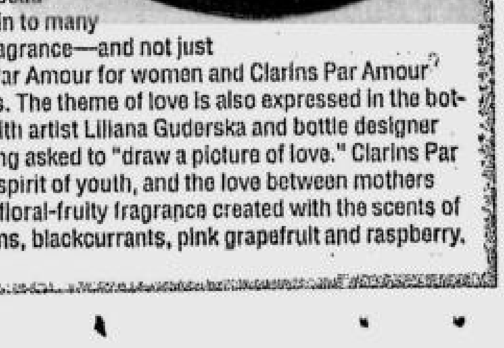
P1300 for 50 ml and P1800 for 100 ml. Available at Rustan's Essenses

The essential oils of lavender and juniper combine with the subtle notes of wood, amber and moss to create the sweet and warm scent of Acca Kappa's White Moss fragrance. This light scent lasts all day. Fresh and musky, Acca Kappa's White Moss is a contradiction, one that appeals to both men and women. If you love the scent of White Moss, you might also want to check out Acca Kappa's White Moss Hand Cream, Body Lotion, Shaving Cream, Shave Emulsion and Deodorant Spray, Shave Foam.

Innocent by Thierry Mugler

Available at Rustan's Essenses.

Celebrate schooldays of innocence with this fragrance from Thierry Mugler. Falling under "the fruity-gourmand" olfactory family, Innocent carries notes of candy and fruit and promises crispness, sweetness and tenderness. The makers of this fragrance associate it with words like innocence, curiosity, charm, fantasy, playfulness, surprise, temptation, games. Spritz this on to add a little spice to your school life.



Clarins Par Amour Toujours

Available at Rustan's Essenses.

Clarins Par Amour is not just a fragrance, it's a love story. After listening to women and giving them what they want in terms of skincare and beauty, Clarins finally gave in to many requests for its own fragrance—and not just one, but two: Clarins Par Amour for women and Clarins Par Amour Toujours for daughters. The theme of love is also expressed in the bottle and box designs, with artist Liliana Guderska and bottle designer Federico Restrepo being asked to "draw a picture of love." Clarins Par Amour celebrates the spirit of youth, and the love between mothers and daughters, with a floral-fruity fragrance created with the scents of roses, pink peppercorns, blackcurrants, pink grapefruit and raspberry.

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Lora Gabol

DOES "HELLO, SCHOOL!" MEAN "GOODbye, pretty!" to you? It shouldn't—not if you know how to welcome the new school year with a fresh batch of beauty tricks.

Here are some surefire ways to keep you looking gorgeous in the next ten months.

Get a new look

When I was younger, I used to mark the start of my "new year" on the first day of school. With good reason, too, as it was the perfect setting to show off a new look.

Add some shock factor to June by getting a new haircut, fresh hair color, or an entirely new you by way of the high-tech hair treatments around. Sometime between completing your school supplies and the day you resume your scholastic responsibilities, pencil in a trip to the salon.

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HELLO/ D2

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THE BODY Shop's Vitamin C time-release capsules

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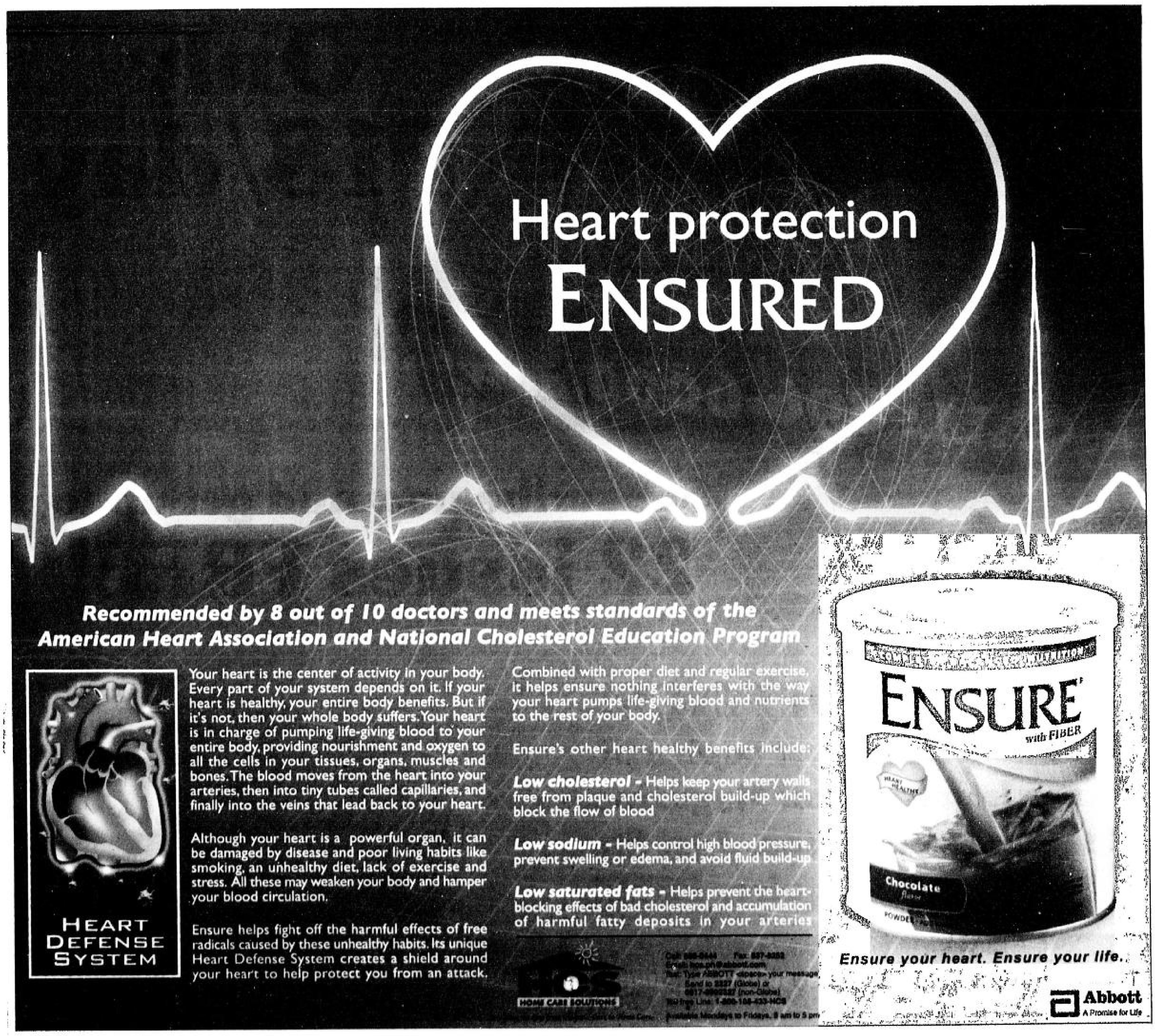

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Your heart is the center of activity in your body. Every part of your system depends on it. If your heart is healthy, your entire body benefits. But if it's not, then your whole body suffers. Your heart is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones. The blood moves from the heart into your arteries, then into tiny tubes called capillaries, and finally into the veins that lead back to your heart.

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Ensure your heart. Ensure your life.

Hello, gorgeous!

From page D0

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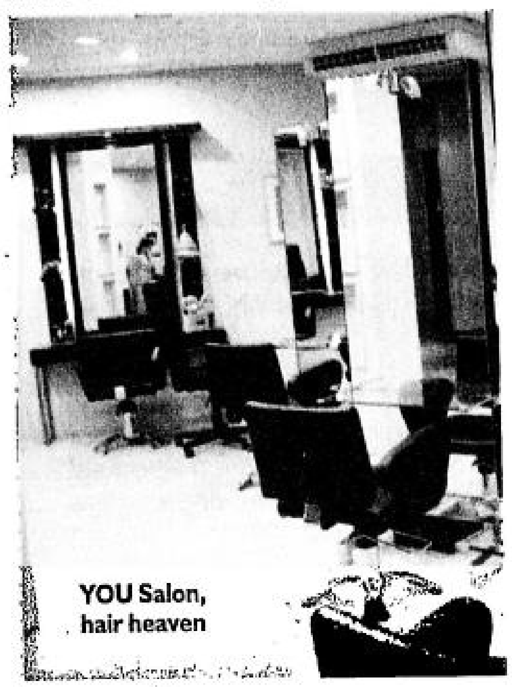

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Take your vitamins

Schoolwork means more stress, which ultimately takes its toll on your health, and is inevitably reflected in your skin and looks in general. Consider this your "ounce of prevention": take dietary vitamin supplements like vitamin A, C and E. Your energy levels, immunity, not to mention your skin and hair, will thank you for it.

For an extra vitamin boost externally, treat your skin to enriched skincare. Vitamin C-based products brighten and energize skin. I'm currently loving The Body Shop's Time Release Vitamin C Capsules, tiny soft-gel caps filled with pure topical vitamin C for a healthy skin treat. The concentrated vitamin C in this product "wakes up" my complexion, getting rid of all evidence of stress with regular use, which is the best news for people who can't get rid of stress itself.

Another favorite is Nivea New Skin Intense Rejuvenating Care, which I apply at night because of its richer consistency. After two weeks of using this, my skin has been considerably smoother and the uneven skin tone from too many late nights is evening out beautifully.

Watch your eyes

The first clue that school season has begun?. A brand-new set of eye bags and dark circles, and red, irritated eyes from reading and too much time in front of the computer.

Nip these back-to-school hazards even before they start with an effective eye-care regimen. Yes, you need one. Never underestimate the need for eye care at your age. With the presence of too much pollution, stressors and aging elements around, you wouldn't want to be sorry when you're 25 and sporting crow's feet.

The best products to use are those that refresh and de-puff (more than fixing fine lines). Look for ingredients like cucumber (found in St. Ives Eye and Face Anti-Stress Gel) and vitamin E (in The Body Shop Vitamin E Eye Cream). Also, keep a tube of eyebag-minimizing eye gels. L'oreal Hydrafresh Eye and Murad Moisture Silk Eye Gel are my picks.

To keep eyes bright, tote a bottle of eye drops. You'll need it after a night of reading. Try Visine Refresh to get rid of redness and make you look extra-fresh. For an easy look-awake trick, line your lower lids with white eyeliner. This secret makeup move will make the white of your eyes appear whiter, giving you that bright-eyed look in an instant. Try Prestige Eye Liner or Shu Uemura Drawing Pencil for an instant perk-me-up.

Nivea and L'oreal at PCX, Watson's and department stores; The Body Shop at major malls; Visine at Mercury Drug; Prestige at Beauty Bar; Murad at Essenses, Rustan's; Shu Uemura at Rustan's; You Salon at the 3/F, The Fort Strip, Fort Bonifacio. For appointments, call 8184968 or 8181968.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

First-schoolday tips

ANXIOUS ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF school? Fret not! Bic has a few tips on how to welcome the new school year.

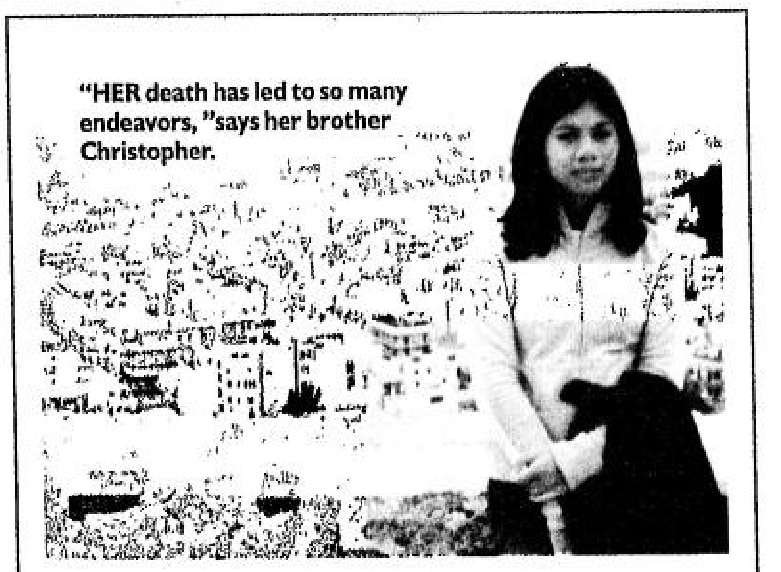
Come prepared. Sleep early the night before the big day. Start the morning right with a healthy breakfast. A good night's sleep and a satisfied tummy will give you the energy boost you need for the day.

Wear something you love. Put on your lucky earrings or watch. Wear your favorite hair clip. Make sure that you feel good about the way you look.

Meet and greet. Catch up with your old friends and try to make new ones. Exchange stories about exciting summer escapades with your best friend or strike up a conversation with your new seatmate. Your friends will definitely make the coming school year memorable.

Bring all the right sfuff. Borrowing school supplies from your classmates is not a good way to start the school year. Be sure to come to school with the basics: pencils, ballpoint pens, notebooks and paper in themes and colors that match your personality. Bic Velocity mechanical pencils come in bright and cheerful colors that will suit your positive mood.

Bic Writing Instruments are distributed by Filstar Distributors Corporation and are available at National Book Store and other retail shops.



"HER death has led to so many endeavors, "says her brother Christopher.

KC lives on

KC DE VENECIA'S LEGACY lives on in the hearts of those who love her.

In the aftermath of her passing at the age of 16, her family, led by Speaker José de Venecia and Ms Gina Vera Perez-de Venecia, established the KC de Venecia Foundation. Headed by KC's mom, it aims to help send to school exceptional students from economically disadvantaged families.

The scholarships are open to Filipino students who excel in arts and sciences, fields KC was very passionate about. Applicants should be between ages 16 and 22, with a general average grade of 85 percent or higher and interested to pursue studies in the field of arts (mass communications, journalism, theater arts, speech communications, fine arts, interior design, literature, architecture, music, European languages) and sciences (nursing, biology, zoology, biochemistry, computers, food and nutrition).

The foundation's first scholar is Bhea Vacio, a third-year Fine Arts student at the Philippine Women's University. Her father, a grade-school teacher, had written to the KC Foundation to ask for support for his daughter's studies. She had been an artist since the age of 4 and has won many awards for her works.

Bhea almost stopped studying for a semester due to financial problems. "If not for the KC Foundation, my dreams would have burst like bubbles," she said.

KC's older brother Christopher said, "Some stories end with death. But KC's story has gone on beyond death and not everybody gets the opportunity to touch many lives, especially after death. Since KC passed away, there's Ina, there's KC's Foundation, there's dad's proposal for asbestos suit technology to be shipped in from Austria (for firefighters). The burn unit at the Philippine General Hospital was renovated in honor of KC, you have three buildings in Marilac Hills, Haven for Women and Haven for Children, all in honor of KC as well. Her death has led to so many endeavors."

The KC de Venecia Foundation is located at 12 A United St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City. Call 6344629 or 22 or e-mail kcdevenecia@yahoo.com

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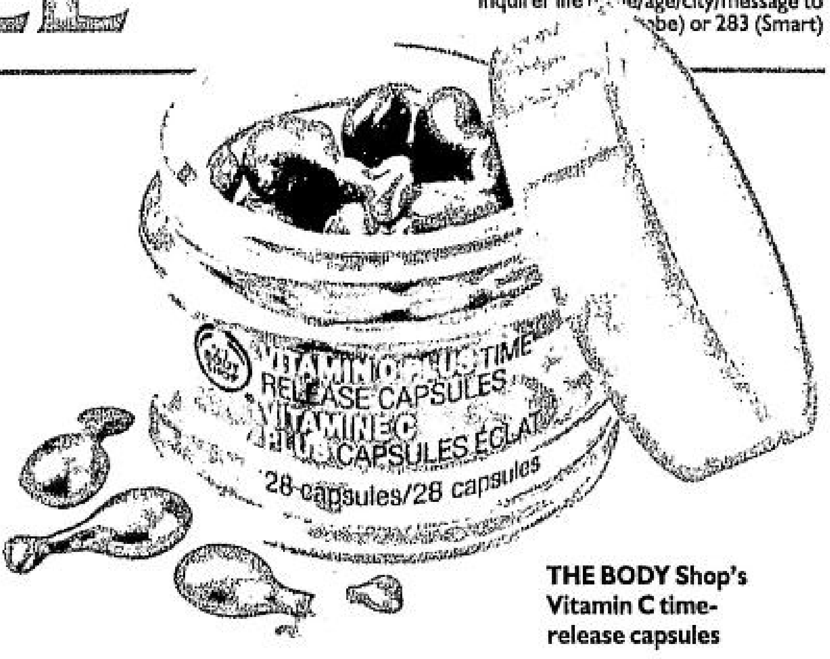

THE BODY Shop's Vitamin C time-release capsules

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HELLO/ D2

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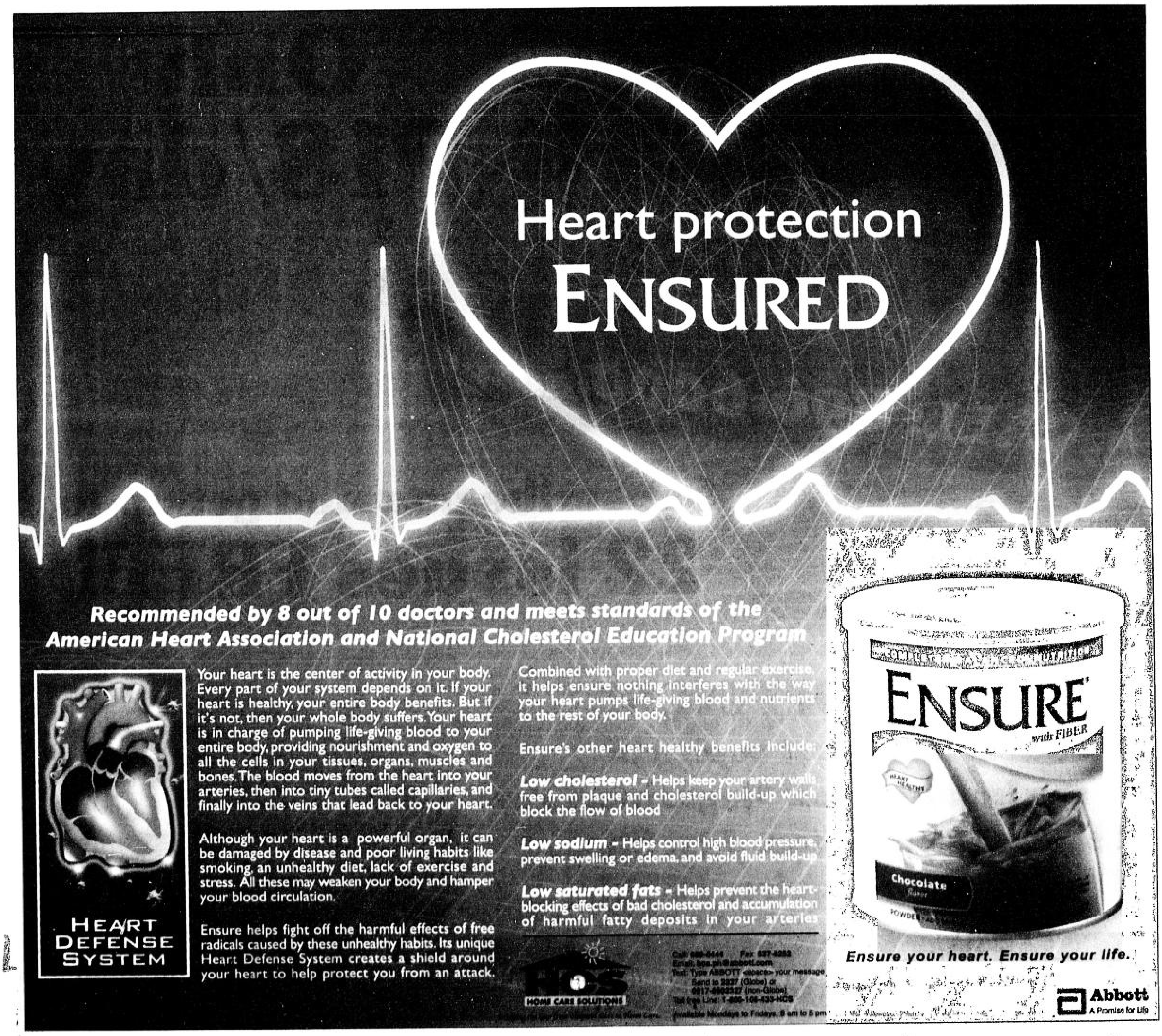

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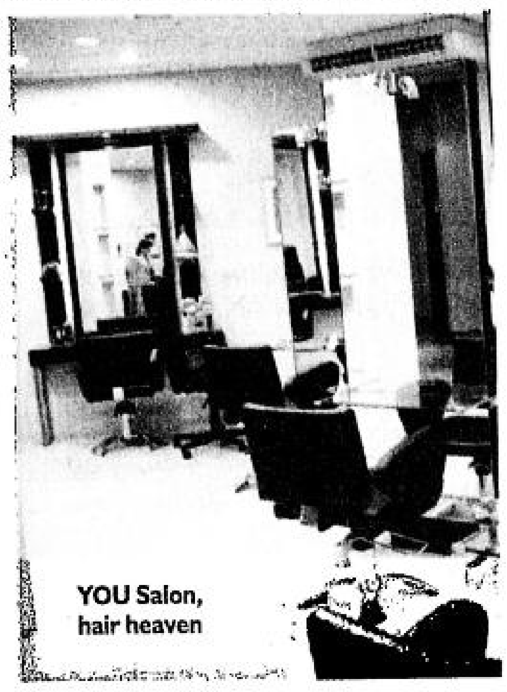
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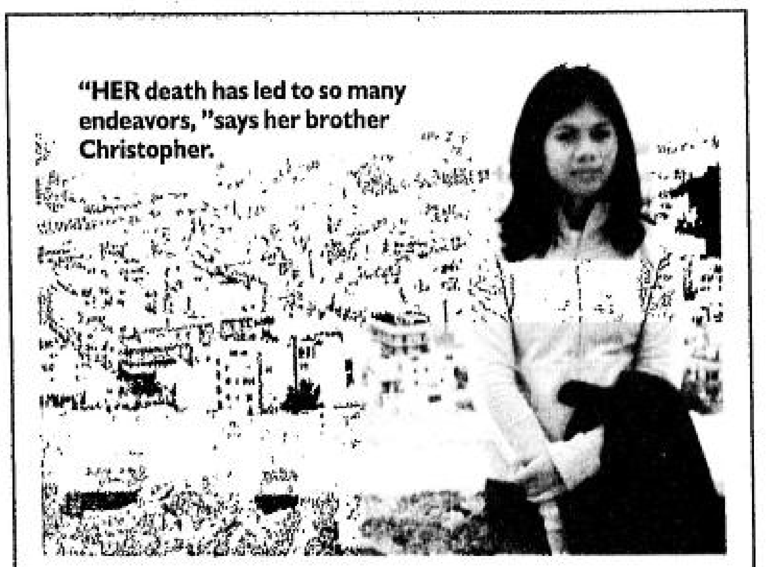
E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com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Hello, gorgeous!

Lora Gabol

DOES "HELLO, SCHOOL!" MEAN "GOOD-bye, pretty!" to you? It shouldn't—not if you know how to welcome the new school year with a fresh batch of beauty tricks.

Here are some surefire ways to keep you looking gorgeous in the next ten months.

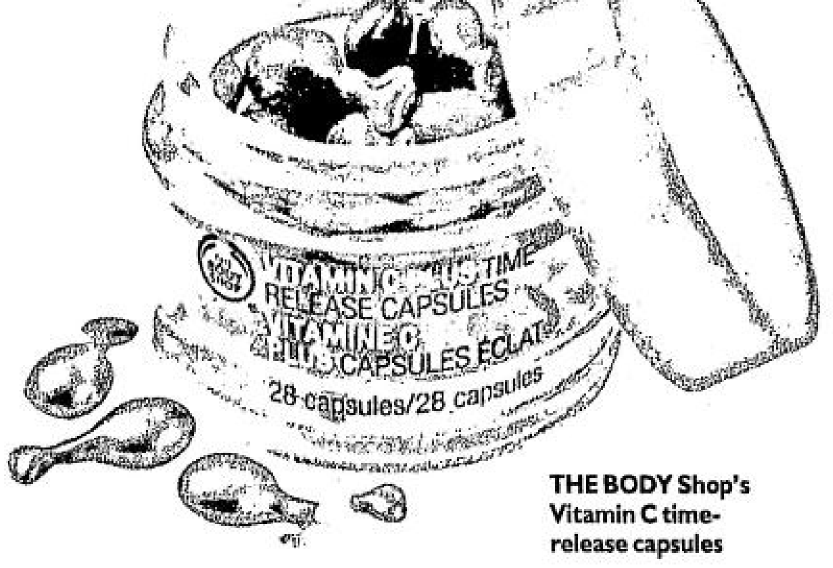
Get a new look

When I was younger, I used to mark the start of my "new year" on the first day of school. With good reason, too, as it was the perfect setting to show off a new look.

Add some shock factor to June by getting a new haircut, fresh hair color, or an entirely new you by way of the high-tech hair treatments around. Sometime between completing your school supplies and the day you resume your scholastic responsibilities, pencil in a trip to the salon.

Now, had I gone for a back-to-school hair splurge this year, my recent trip to You Salon at The Fort would've been it. I've been quite the regular at this very tech-savvy beauty haven in the past months, mostly because there's always something new to try every time! On top of my list is still the hair manicure, which is really a makeover in itself with the way it transforms even the dullest hair in-

HELLO/ D2



THE BODY Shop's Vitamin C time-release capsules

The Tell-tale Heart: Tips for a Healthy Life

Dr. Luisito O. Llido, Head of the Nutrition Support Services of St. Luke's Medical Center is an expert in clinical nutrition with a proven track record in the care of the critically-ill like cardiac patients. He would rather help in the prevention of heart disease than see it in its full-blown manifestation. As part of St. Luke's total quality patient care program, Dr. Llido looks at the over-all health status of a patient and recommends simpler and healthier lifestyle change. Here is his prescription for a healthy heart:

Eat right. Making healthy food choices significantly lowers blood pressure and reduces the risk of a heart attack. Loading up on fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and fish keeps the kilos off but your body also needs the right amounts of healthy fat. With high-cholesterol fast food and other convenience items taking up a larger role in the modern diet, you will be better off with balanced nutrition that matches your calorie and protein requirement based on your weight and nutritional assessment.

For obtaining optimum health and maximum productivity, Dr. Llido recommends a balanced diet supplemented with "nutrient-complete" products like Ensure. It provides complete and balanced nutrition and can also be used as a meal replacement to help ward off hypertension, stroke and cardiovascular disease. It gives you the required calories and helps eliminate the "guessing game" associated with fad diets.

Be active. Sedentary lifestyles are the scourge of the modern age. If work and other concerns leave you with no time to exercise, remember that just being physically active doing housework or taking care of the kids already accounts for exercise. So keep moving and do whatever form of exercise is fit for you. Exercise provides health benefits for the whole body like improving circulation and muscle mass function, repairing body tissues and reducing inflammation, aside from promoting heart protection.

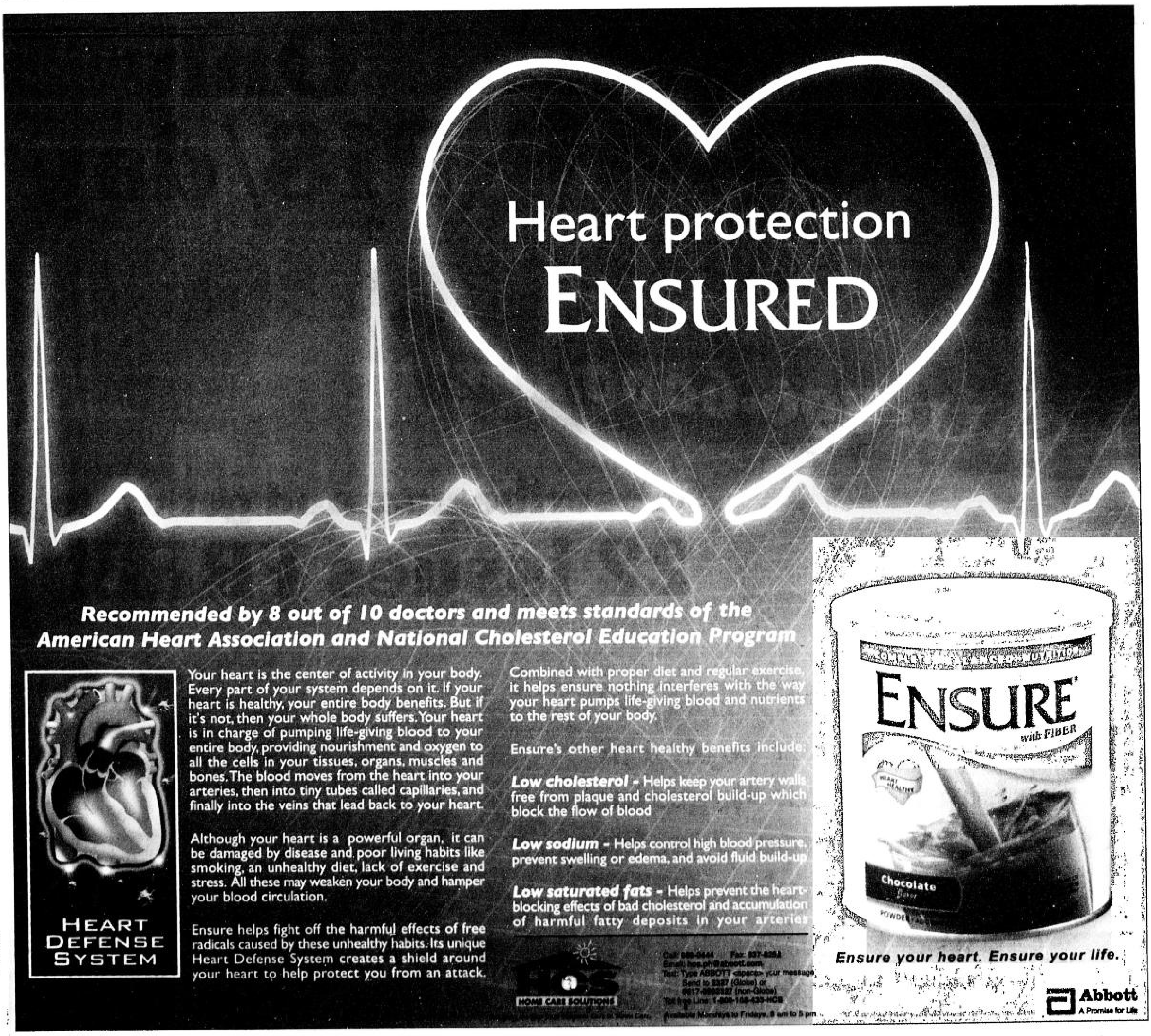
Avoid stress. Studies have shown that emotional and physical stress can also increase oxidative damage from free radicals to the whole body. It also raises your blood pressure and makes you more prone to heart attacks. So make sure you set aside some time for rest and relaxation. Step back from the "fast lane" and engage in relaxing activities like music, reading, enjoying time with your family, or having special hobbies. Your heart will thank you for it.

Have a positive outlook. Studies have shown that people who look at the brighter side of life tend to have better productivity and stable relationships. Married couples with positive relationships tend to live longer.

For an effective patient management approach to intensive and comprehensive pre- and post-operative cardiac rehabilitation, more doctors incorporate daily feedings of Ensure.

Ensure is equipped with a heart-defense system rich in antioxidants and low in cholesterol, sodium and saturated fats to assure you of total heart protection. It also has a heart-healthy fat blend that meets the standards set by the American Heart Association.

Dr. Llido was a guest speaker at the Annual Convention of the Philippine Heart Association held on May 26, 2006 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel. He delivered a talk with the topic "Cardio-nutrition: Its Impact on the Total Care of a Patient."



Recommended by 8 out of 10 doctors and meets standards of the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program

Your heart is the center of activity in your body. Every part of your system depends on it. If your heart is healthy, your entire body benefits. But if it's not, then your whole body suffers. Your heart is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones. The blood moves from the heart into your arteries, then into tiny tubes called capillaries, and finally into the veins that lead back to your heart.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits like smoking, an unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and stress. All these may weaken your body and hamper your blood circulation.

Ensure helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a shield around your heart to help protect you from an attack.

Combined with proper diet and regular exercise, it helps ensure nothing interferes with the way your heart pumps life-giving blood and nutrients to the rest of your body.

Ensure's other heart healthy benefits include:

Low cholesterol - Helps keep your artery walls free from plaque and cholesterol build-up which block the flow of blood

Low sodium - Helps control high blood pressure, prevent swelling or edema, and avoid fluid build-up

Low saturated fats - Helps prevent the heart-blocking effects of bad cholesterol and accumulation of harmful fatty deposits in your arteries

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Ensure your heart. Ensure your life.

Hello, gorgeous!

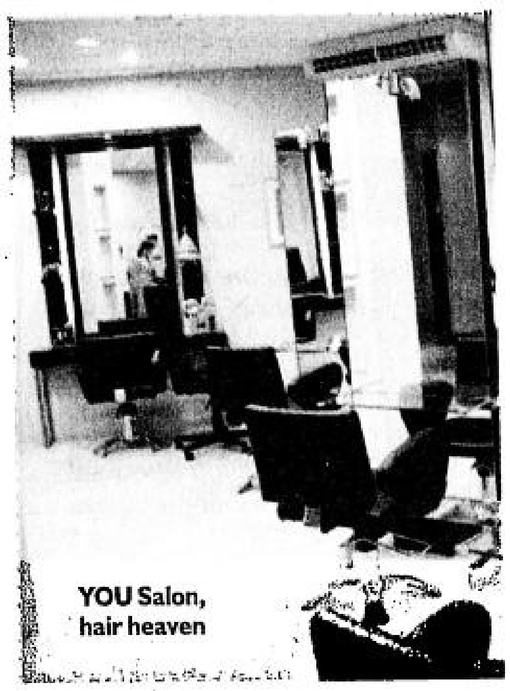
From page D0

to your lustrous crowning glory.

For the back-to-school pack, I suggest a hair-smoothening treatment to cut the styling time in the morning. Who needs the unnecessary primping time before a nerve-wracking exam, after all? Smooth does not mean stick-straight, though. *Walis*-looking locks just doesn't look right.

Lucky for us, You Salon has moved quite the distance from traditional rebonding. The genius hairstyling husband-and-wife tandem Mr. YS and Ms Becky introduced me to the Flat Plate Perm, an intriguing new straightening treatment that uses a gentler paste instead of the usual liquid chemical used in rebonding, and plastic sheets ("plates") instead of traditional flat irons to "shape" hair.

The result? Smoother hair without the harsh "rebonded" effect, more bounce, and considerably less damage. After having curls for most of the summer (which require some product and quite a bit of effort to style), I'm loving the fact that all it takes to make my new 'do extra-sleek is a couple of drops of shine serum and some air-drying. That I can easily pull off the perfect preppy girl look with my *kolehiyala* hair is but an adorable bonus.



YOU Salon, hair heaven

If you're fine with your hair texture and just need a fabulous new chop, schedule an appointment with Mr. YS. He's a real creative expert when it comes to cuts. He spends more time snipping away than most stylists, but fret not because he never takes off more than he should; he's just more meticulous with shape and symmetry. You're sure to get your money's worth.

Take your vitamins

Schoolwork means more stress, which ultimately takes its toll on your health, and is inevitably reflected in your skin and looks in general. Consider this your "ounce of prevention": take dietary vitamin supplements like vitamin A, C and E. Your energy levels, immunity, not to mention your skin and hair, will thank you for it.

For an extra vitamin boost externally, treat your skin to enriched skincare. Vitamin C-based products brighten and energize skin. I'm currently loving The Body Shop's Time Release Vitamin C Capsules, tiny soft-gel caps filled with pure topical vitamin C for a healthy skin treat. The concentrated vitamin C in this product "wakes up" my complexion, getting rid of all evidence of stress with regular use, which is the best news for people who can't get rid of stress itself.

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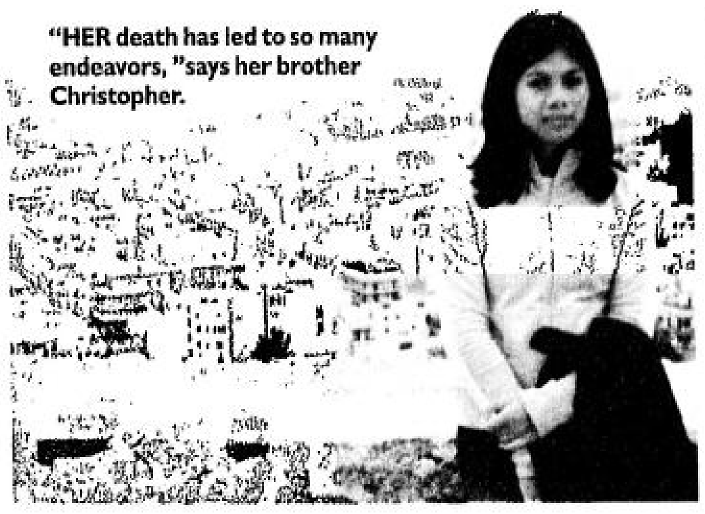

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CHUPA CHUPS, THE WORLD'S NO. 1 LOLLIPOP, through its exclusive Philippine distributor, ADP Industries Corp., will celebrate World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) in the country May 31.

WNTD is the only global event established to call attention to the impact of tobacco use on public health and to reduce individual tobacco-dependence.

For the first time in the Philippines, Chupa Chups, the world's favorite "sweet on a stick," will ask an estimated 24 million Filipino smokers to "butt out" on World No-Tobacco Day.

According to studies done in Spain, sucking a Chupa Chups lollipop creates a feeling of warmth, sense of security and helps relieve stress. It serves as an "effective tool" for smokers who want to quit smoking.

To send a message among Filipino smokers that Chupa Chups is a healthy alternative to smoking, Chupa Chups teams will roam the metro's most popular bars and restaurants May 31. They will convince smokers to exchange a stick of their cigarette for a Chupa Chups lollipop.

See you in your favorite bars and restaurants tonight!

Improving your English and Filipino

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) has lamented the declining proficiency and knowledge of Filipino students in English and Filipino.

According to DepEd, the 2005 National Assessment Test in the secondary level showed only 42.48 percent proficiency level in Filipino compared to 61.26 percent NAT exams conducted in 2001.

Likewise, DepEd also said that in the recent NAT for school year 2004-2005, public elementary pupils obtained a low average of 59.1 percent in English.

Aside from developing good study habits, students may employ the following tips to improve their language and communication skills, whether in English or Filipino:

"Reading is the best way to improve your vocabulary. Read newspapers, magazines, websites, novels and nonfiction books. Choose something that genuinely interests you and isn't too challenging.

"Pretend you are a newscaster and read out the newspaper to your mirror.

"While reading a book, underline all the words you do not know. Look them up in the dictionary.

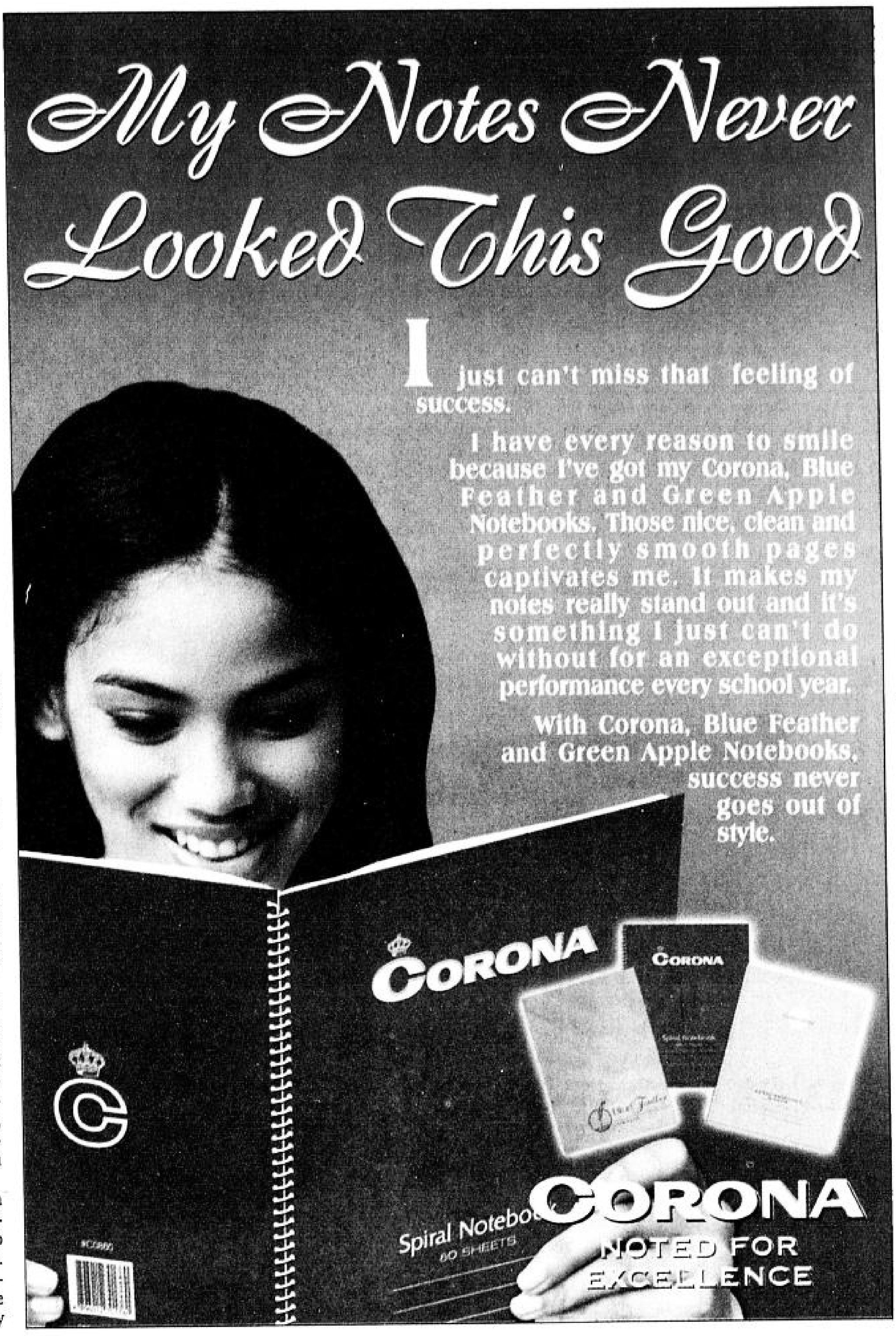
"Make a list of these words, and make sure you use at least five of them in a conversation during the day.

"Try keeping a daily journal where you can practice using new words and expressions. This helps reinforce sentence structures and vocabulary.

These are just some of the many useful information that can be found in Diwa's English and Filipino scholastic enhancement materials (SEMs), such as "Magica" and "Tambuli" for high-school students and "Abracadabra" and "Kaluskos" for grade school students.

"Kaluskos" and "Tambuli," Diwa's Filipino SEMs, aim to develop the mental, analytical, reading, writing and speaking skills in Filipino of the students by utilizing the socio-linguistic approach in their main articles and regular features, thus integrating the lessons in the magazines to other subjects such as social studies, values education, etc. and follow the matrix defined and developed from the new curriculum of DepEd.

"Abracadabra" and "Magica," Diwa's English SEMs, provide proper foundation and motivation for young writers and speakers and help students understand and fully enjoy literature. Moreover, these SEMs teach the English language and literature in the context of Philippine culture and history, so students significantly learn more from a single magazine.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World theater festival at CCP

LEADING THEATER COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUAL artists from around the world are performing their new and highly acclaimed works in the ongoing International Theater Festival (ITF) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which began yesterday and ends June 25. This event is held in partnership with the different embassies and international cultural institutions.

The Unesco International Theater Institute's New Project Group presents "The Borges Project," about a man who searches through a jungle and finds mysterious ruins, falls asleep and dreams the dreams of a creator. Eight countries (Belgium, Cameroon, Croatia, Germany, Japan, Philippines, Switzerland and the US) are participating in the Borges tale "Circular Ruins" by selecting one aspect of the story or one body part dreamed by the dreamer. Last performance tonight, 8 p.m., at CCP Huseng Batute.

An interdisciplinary, hybrid art collaborative performance ,between Philippines and Australia titled "Peregrinations... Against Reduction" will be staged June 9, 8 p.m., and June 10-11, 3 p.m., at CCP Huseng Batute. It dwells on the real-life battles of HIV-AIDS victims, with renowned choreographer Enrico Labayen and media arts specialist Vienna Parreno as guest performers.

"The Coffee Shop Within the Play (Unravel Noh)" from Japan's famous masked theatrical form combines dance, drama, music and poetry, and features an excerpt from the Dance of Senzai from Okina, the oldest Noh prototype and which is still danced only by men. It will run June 22-23, 3-p.m., at CCP Huseng Batute.

Tanghalang Pilipino's hit musical "ZsaZsa Zaturnnah," meanwhile, will be restaged on June 16 and June 18, 8 p.m., at CCP Huseng Batute.

From Japan comes another show, "Condor Conquest of the Galaxy: Jupiter," which showcases a melange of dance segments, film puppetry and satiric skits that pay irreverence to Japanese culture and world pop. It will be presented on June 23, 8 p.m., at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater).

The local production "Godot, Wer Is U?" based on Samuel Beckett's classic "Waiting for Godot," will be staged June 22-23, 8 p.m., and June 24-25, 3 p.m., at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater). Directed by renowned French director Alain Timar "Godot" is set in a community along the *riles*, complete with street slang, Pinoy humor and a tricycle on stage. Featured actors are Paolo O'Hara, Paolo Rodriguez, Cris Pasturan and Bong Cabrera.

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CONDORS, the all-male contemporary dance group from Japan, will perform "Conquest of the Galaxy: Jupiter."

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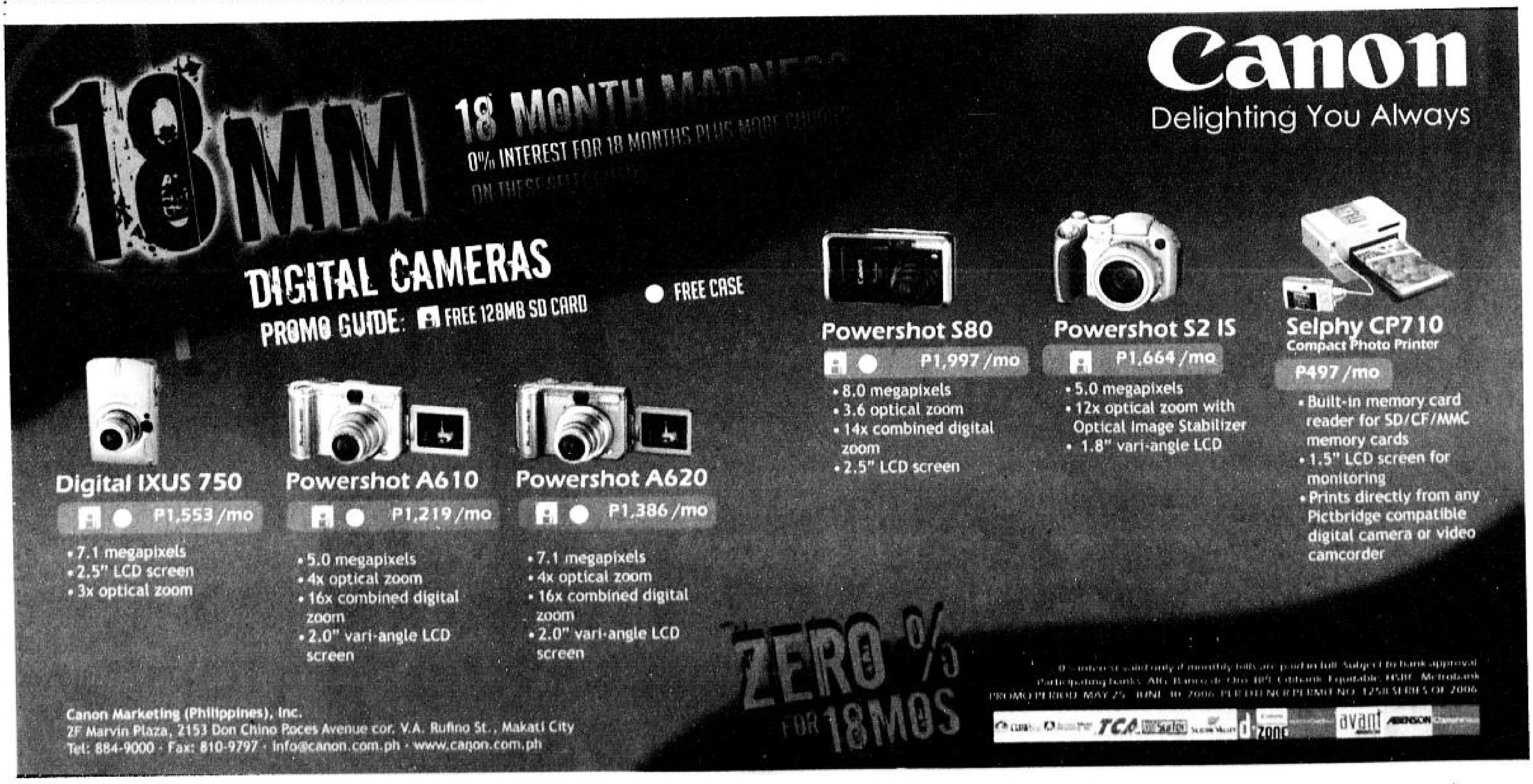

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KAYA NG PINOY!

Determination and teamwork carry Philippine flag to the top of the world

FROM THE GET-GO, THE MEMBERS OF THE First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition had only one thing in mind: to take the Pinoy Spirit to the world's highest peak and show their countrymen and the entire world what we can accomplish with vision, hard work and teamwork.

Recent headlines and news broadcasts drumbeating FPMEE climbers Leo Oracion and Erwin 'Pastor' Emata's successful, historic two-for-two Everest ascents last May 17 and 18, have captured the entire country's imagination, but more importantly, gave the entire Pinoy race an achievement we can all be proud of.

This is an especially uplifting, inspiring feat at a time when the country is starved for heroes. The 17-strong FPMEE have been training for two years in order to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, virtually sacrificing life and limb to place the Philippine flag on top of the world's highest mountain.

History in the making

In 2004, a formidable group of mountain climbers and adventure racers, led by former DOTC undersecretary Art Valdez, gathered in a singular quest to put the Philippines on the map of international mountaineering by climbing the peak of the world's highest mountain.

The team had to undergo rigorous trainings-such as climbing Mt. Cook, the highest peak in New Zealand and Mt. Muztagh-Ata in China-Pakistan, one of the world's most technically difficult mountains-to be able to conquer Mt. Everest's cold and rough terrains. After all, this venture would not be easy for climbers from the tropics.

To ensure the FPMEE team's thorough preparation for their Unity Climb 2007 mission, they first sent two of the team's strongest climbers to go on an exploratory climb to Mt. Everest last February. Leo Oracion and Pastor Emata, who just successfully reached the peak of the 24,758-ft Muztagh Ata, were the unanimous choices.

With the help of team leaders Art Valdez and Regie Pablo, and team member Doc Ted Esguerra, Oracion and Emata went on a series of acclimatization exercises, and physical and mental preparations at Everest Base Camp. Finally, when the Nepali government gave its green light to climb Mt. Everest last April 6, Oracion and Emata pushed through with the team's quest.

THE TEAM at Mt. Everest Base Camp

"Buhay na namin ang tinataya namin sa pag-akyat na ito," Emata said in an emotional interview with ABS-CBN's Abner Mercado of The Correspondents.

The Philippine Eagle has landed...

With rough terrain, dangerous crevasses and freezing weather, it was the mountaineers' deadliest climb ever. Finally, on May 17 and 18, after weeks trudging through Everest's snow and thin air, Oracion and Emata became the first Filipinos to climb the peak of the world's highest mountain.

As Oracion planted the first Philippine flag atop Mt. Everest, his first words were: "The Philippine Eagle has landed!" It was a phrase that echoed every Pinoy's pride at this achievement.

Less than 24 hours later, Emata snuck up on Everest's summit, in record time. He climbed what would usually take climbers 12 hours to reach the summit in little more than a startling 7 hours! After complaining to Base Camp about the freezing weather at the summit, Emata patiently waited for the sun to rise. It would be a sunrise that the FPMEE hopes becomes the dawn of a new era for the Filipino spirit.

ERWIN 'Pastor' Emata sees the sunrise from Everest's summit

Heroes' welcome for FPMEE, Oracion and Emata

WITH THEIR SYMBOLIC TRIUMPH ON Mt. Everest, Leo Oracion and Pastor Emata, along with their teammates can expect a welcome worthy of heroes upon their return home. After all, they have inspired other Filipinos to follow in their footsteps, believing that no dream is impossible with hard work. It is these Filipinos who will welcome the FPMEE in a series of activities which kick off beginning today.

May 31, 2006 (Wednesday)

- Heroes welcome at Manila City Hall led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza
- Motorcade through Manila
  Courtesy Call with President Gloria
- Macapagal Arroyo at Malacanang
- Awards ceremonies at Philippine Coast Guard Headquarters
- Motorcade through Ayala Ave. Makati under the auspices of Mayor Jejomar Binay

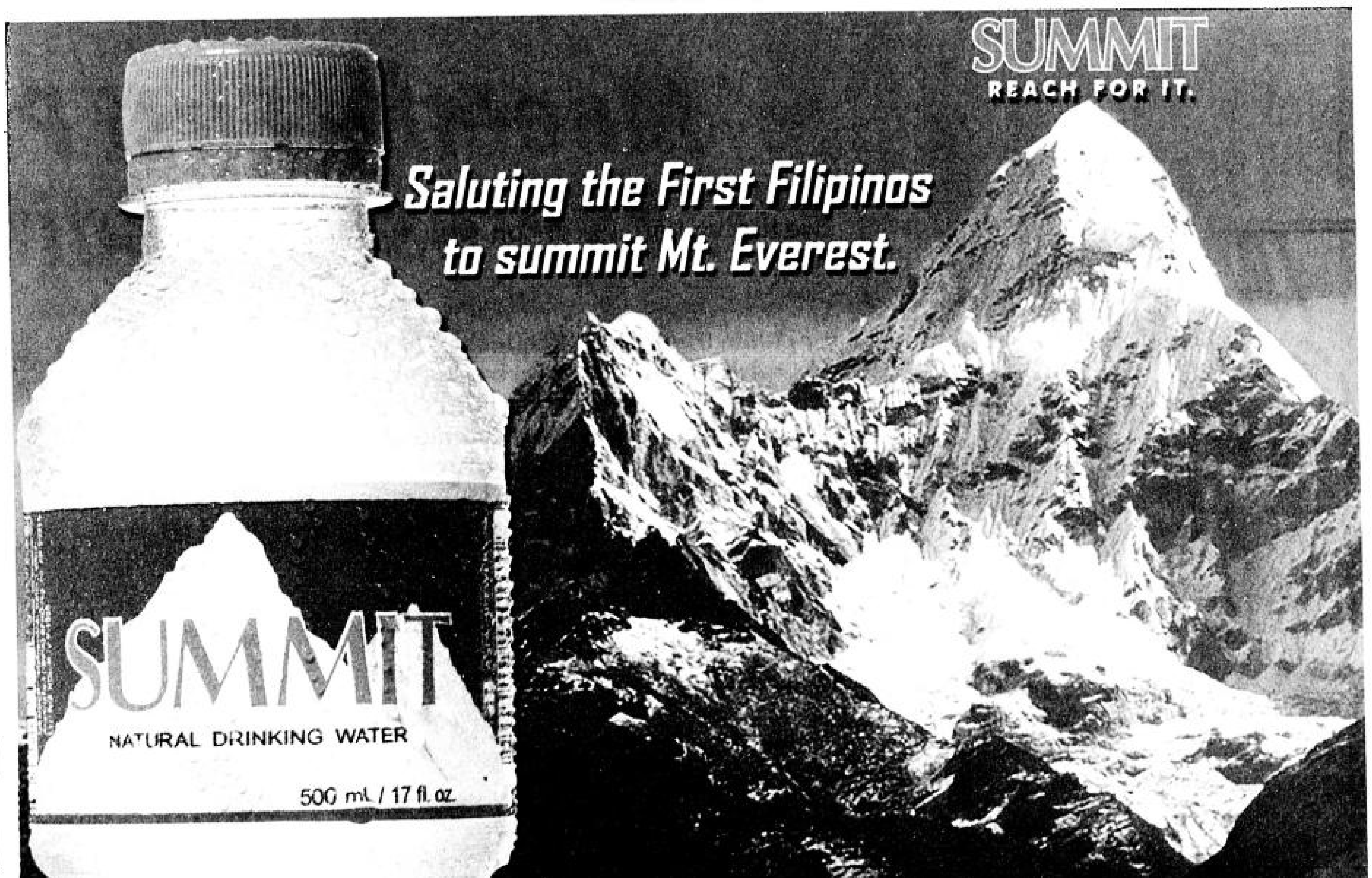
June 1, 2006 (Thursday)

- Courtesy Call at the Senate

June 2, 2006 (Friday)

- Pinoys Rock on High!
  Street party at Baywalk, 7 pm

* Open to the public: Celebrate the team's triumph on Everest with today's hottest bands: Brownman evival, Imago, Protein Shake, Callalily and Paralumanl



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The Road to Mt. Everest

Two years of intensive training in some of the world's most difficult peaks have honed the skills of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition's members.

MARCH 2004 - First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition launch at Rockwell

APRIL 2004 - Training climb at Mt. Guiting Guiting, Romblon

AUGUST 2004 - Team finishes basic alpine mountaineering at Mt. Kyorang, India

JANUARY 2005 - Cordillera Expedition in Luzon

MARCH 2005 - Technical alpine mountaineering training climb at Mt. Cook, New Zealand

MAY 2005 - Training climb at Mt. Amuyao, Ifugao

AUGUST TO SEPT 2005 - Technical alpine mountaineering at Mt. Muztagh Ata, Pakistan-China

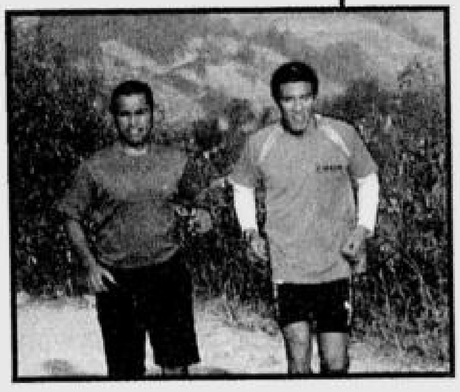
DECEMBER 2005 - Fun Climb to Mt. Apo with Junko Tabei, the first woman on Mt. Everest

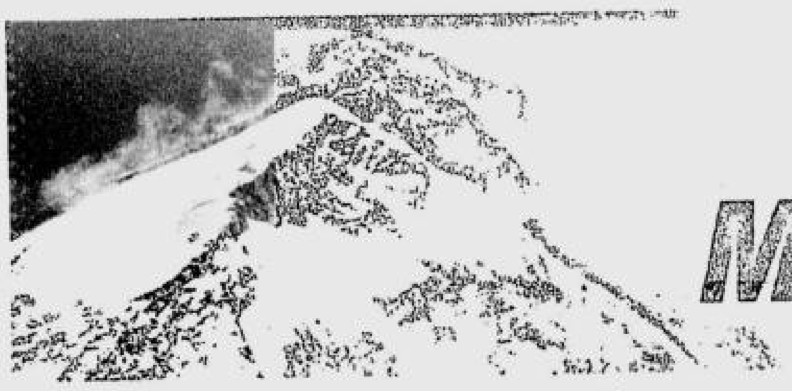
APRIL 2006 - Oracion & Emata acclimatize at Island Peak

FEBRUARY - MAY 2006 - Mt. Everest reconnaissance climb of lead climbers Oracion & Emata

MAY TO JUNE 2006 - Training at Mt. McKinley, Alaska

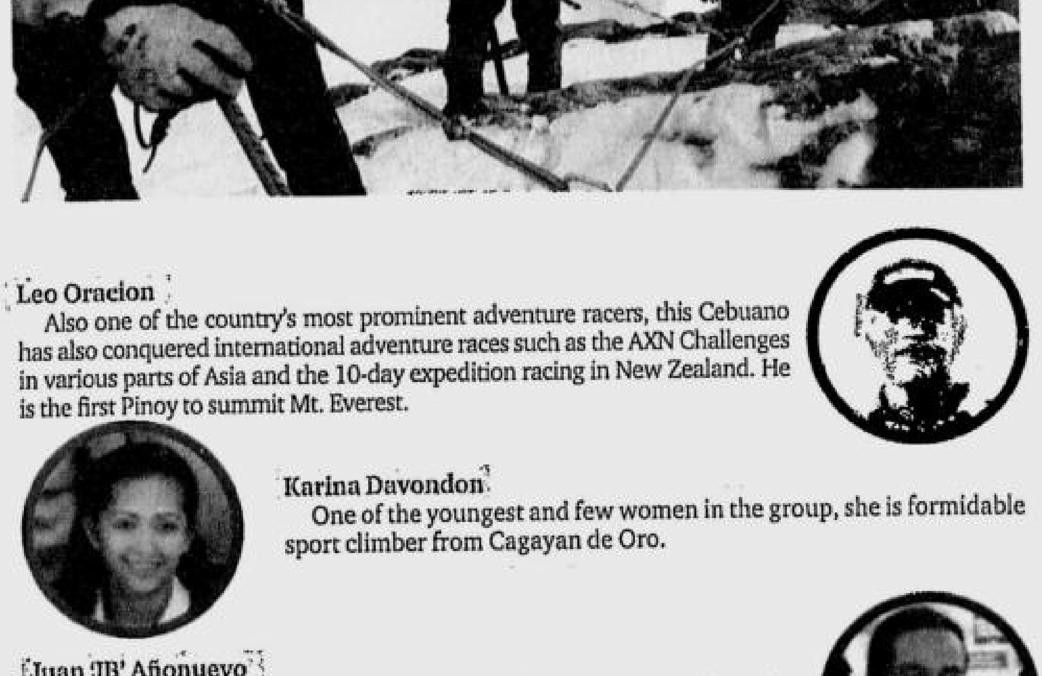
MARCH TO MAY 2007 - Unity Climb of Mt. Everest





Meet the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team

Formidable free spirits, Filipinos all, with one goal-to uplift the Pinoy spirit and empower them with an achievement the entire race can share. The Filipino assault on Mt. Everest in 2007 has been but a dream until the formation of this expert expedition team made up of the country's most passionate mountain climbers and adventure athletes. Together, they will ascend to the world's highest peak and shout from the mountaintops that indeed, the Filipino can!

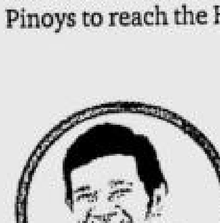


Arturo T. Valdez, expedition leader

A former president of the Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines Inc. (MFPI) and master outdoorsman from Bacolod, he had wanted to assemble a team to assault the world's highest peak as far back as the '70s. By recruiting the members of this expedition, he has made the Everest dream a reality for all Filipinos.

Ari Ben C. Sebastian

A corporate lawyer on weekdays, he's also a mountain warrior and extreme sports buff on the weekends. An accomplished scuba diver, skydiver, and alpine climber, this former president of the MFPI was one of the first Pinoys to reach the Himalayas in the '80s.

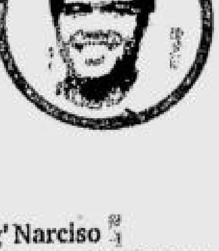


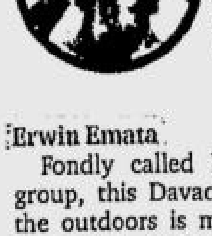
Fred B. Jamili

His love affair with Mother Nature and mountain climbing stretches for nearly 30 years. This veteran has climbed most, if not all the known mountains in the Philippines, and some abroad. One of the expedition team's leaders, he is also an accomplished caver and adventure race setter.

Regie Pablo

One of the expedition's prime movers and team leaders, he is the current president of the MFPI on leave from his day job at Globe Telecom. A skilled mountaineer, he has conquered Razdelnaya Peak in Kyrgyzstan, Mts. Aylmer and Cook in New Zealand, among others.



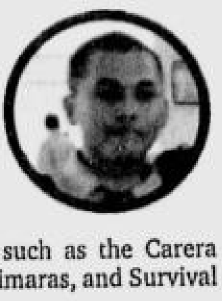


Florentino 'Jong' Narciso

He is a physical education instructor in the International School. He is also an accomplished mountaineer, climbing gym instructor and adventure race setter.

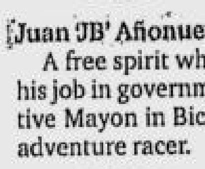
Erwin Emata

Fondly called Pastor by the group, this Davaoeño's love for the outdoors is matched by his boundless, enthusiastic energy. The team's morale booster and resident comic, he is one of the best adventure racers in the country, having won numerous races such as the Carera Habagat, Survival Challenge in Guimaras, and Survival of the Fittest in Escalante, Negros.



Leo Oracion

Also one of the country's most prominent adventure racers, this Cebuano has also conquered international adventure races such as the AXN Challenges in various parts of Asia and the 10-day expedition racing in New Zealand. He is the first Pinoy to summit Mt. Everest.

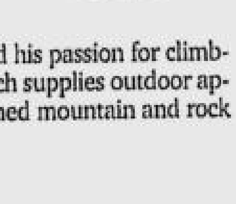


Karina Davondon

One of the youngest and few women in the group, she is formidable sport climber from Cagayan de Oro.

Juan 'JB' Añonuevo

A free spirit who could not rein in his love for the outdoors, he quit his job in government and became a fulltime mountain guide in his native Mayon in Bicol. He is also a sought-after race setter and winning adventure racer.



Levi Nahayangan

A climber from Lagawe, Ifugao province, he turned his passion for climbing into a thriving business, with Lagalag, a shop which supplies outdoor apparel to other mountaineers. He is also an accomplished mountain and rock climber and adventure racer.

Larry Honoridez

A mountaineer and adventure racer, he joined the expedition team in order to bring pride to his family and country.

Janet Belarmino

A member of the University of the Philippines Mountaineers, she is also a fitness instructor for the Moro Lorenzo Fitness Gym in Ateneo. An excellent sport climber, lawn tennis coach and champion triathlete, she is also a consistent winner in the Philippine and Hong Kong legs of the AXN adventure races.

Ariel Ambayac

A mountaineer from Mandaluyong, this father of two has also been a participant of several adventure races.

Noelle Wenceslao

A prized member of the Dragonboat team, she (along with teammate Janet Belarmino) was also a winning fixture in the AXN races here and in Hong Kong. Noelle is also an expert biker and extreme adventure athlete and mountaineer while attending class as a Physical Education student.

Dr. Ted Esguerra

The team's physician is also from the Philippine Coast Guard. An accomplished mountaineer himself, he has conducted studies on the effect on high altitudes on climbers with the United States Air Force, making him an indispensable caretaker of the team's physical health on Everest.

John Tronco

The team's official video and photo documentor, his mastery of capturing nature's beauty on film is only matched by his passion for climbing.

Choi Aquino

This mountaineer, caver and in-demand adventure race setter lends his considerable strength and skill to help ensure the success of the Pinoy Everest ascent.

Itago mo ang pahinang ito

**bilang magandang alaala sa kasaysayan ng lahing hindi sumusuko.
Tatlong taong naghirap magsanay tungo sa ikaaangat ng dangal ng bayan.
May 17, 2006 --- matagumpay na narating ng Pinoy sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ang tuktok ng mundo at iwinagayway ang bandila ng Pilipino.**

LEO ORACION
PASTOUR EMATA

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PINOY SPIRIT NEVER RESTS:

Unity Climb '07, the return to Mt. Everest

WHILE THE PINOY SPIRIT GOT big boost courtesy of the FPMEE's efforts this year, its leader Art Valdez maintains the team's commitment to their ultimate objective, the Unity Climb in 2007. This achievement by Oracion and Emata is not the end of the FPMEE's noble endeavour. "We are committed to come back here next year for a symbolic Unity Climb. Pinoys really need to see that they can achieve the impossible when and only when they work together." During the Unity Climb, the team hopes to accomplish a feat no country has accomplished before: to climb from the North and South sides and meet as one team with one Philippine flag on Everest's summit.

To continue their training for Unity Climb '07, FPMEE team leader Regie Pablo is currently leading a team in the second coldest mountain on Earth, Mt. McKinley in Denali National Park in Alaska. At 20, 320 feet (6,194 meters above sea level) it is the highest mountain in the North American continent and is one of the seven highest summits in the world. Pablo and the team made up of Janet Belarmino, Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon and Larry Honoridez will be climbing the mountain expedition style - meaning no porters, no guides as they brave the extremely cold temperatures which range from -60 to -65 degrees Celsius. They will train there for three weeks.

"It really pays to prepare and plan ahead. It is hard to just climb Mt. Everest or any mountain without proper training, planning and commitment. I am very proud of our team. They have sacrificed a lot just to show Filipinos that we can achieve the impossible if we work together," he said.

This achievement by the FPMEE brings to the fore the Filipino's most enduring positive traits. That despite hardship, determination shines through. That despite danger, teamwork pulls them through. It is indeed a good time to be proud to be Filipinos. It is the best time to say you believe in the Filipino spirit, that the Filipino can!

To sponsor the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition's Unity Climb 2007, please call Donna Nievera-Conda (0917.533.7361) or Iris Reyes (0917.527.4621) at Stratworks (751.3805 to 06).

PHOTO BY JOHN TRONCO

LEO Oracion training at New Zealand

Oracion & Emata: *High altitude heroes*

TWO FORMIDABLE, RESPECTED, prizewinning adventure racers and mountain climbers have given this country much to be proud of. Yet, while their triumph on Everest is, indeed, something to crow about, you will hear no such thing from these two. Competitive and determined, paradoxically, considering their high altitude achievement, they are as down-to-earth as the soil they grew on in their native provinces: Oracion is from Lucban, Quezon, (but is an adopted son of Cebu), while Emata is a true son of Davao.

Leo Oracion, determined mountaineer

Oracion's father, Guillermo has always worried about his son's exploits. "When he was only three years old, he disappeared. We were worried sick because he was nowhere to be found," he recalled. "After hours of looking for him, we saw him by himself, wandering fearlessly at the edge of our farm. When we asked him where he had been, he said he wanted to find the way to his uncle's house."

Leo grew up with a love for outdoor sports. So, after he finished school, he joined a mountaineering search-and-rescue organization. "He has always been one of our toughest and most trusted rescuers," said a former colleague. "Aside from his obvious strengths as a mountaineer, he has a great urge to help people in need, making Leo one of the organization's assets."

Now a dad to his five-year-old daughter, Leo has worked hard to make her and his entire clan proud by embarking on this historic Mt. Everest expedition. "I couldn't be prouder of my son, Leo," said Leo's dad Guillermo, after hearing of his son's historic ascent to Mt. Everest. "We still worry. We can't help it. But we have faith in his strength as a climber, as well as his determination as a person."

Erwin 'Pastor' Emata, positive attitude at high altitudes

"Pastor has always been a great dad to our three kids, and a loving husband," said his wife Mary Ann. "Even during tough times, he lets the whole family see the brighter side of things because he always has a positive outlook in life."

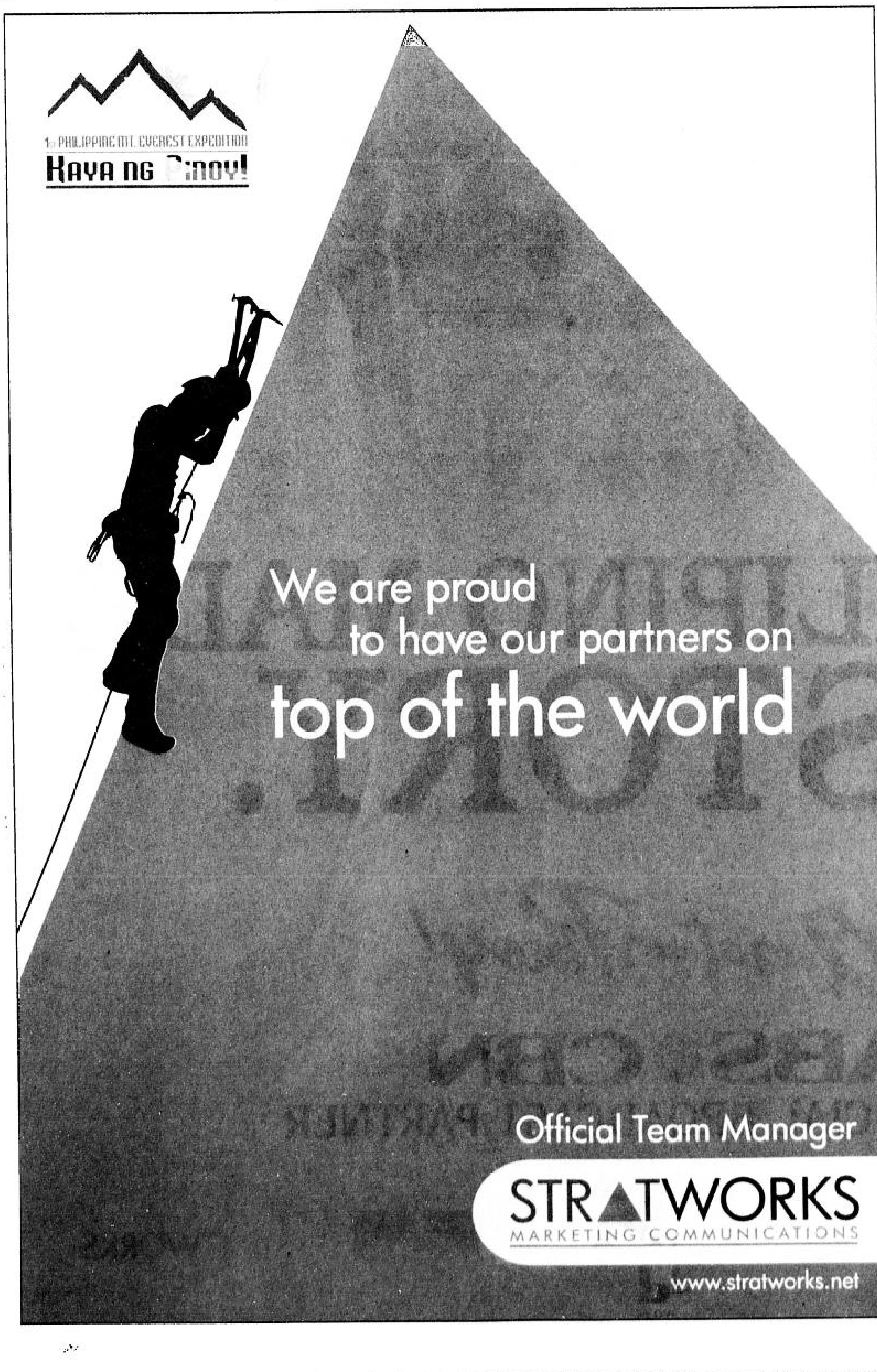
His team mates in the FPMEE also admire his optimistic nature. Pastor is known to be the team's morale booster and resident comic. "Some of our trainings have been really tough, but we always find ourselves in high spirits because Pastor is always there to crack a joke and make everything seem easy," said FPMEE team leader Regie Pablo.

Perhaps it is Pastor's light-hearted nature that has led him to several adventure race victories, including the Carera Habagat, Survival Challenge in Guimaras and Survival of the Fittest in Escalante, Negros.

By their passion and determination, skill and humility to work in a team, Oracion and Emata are showing Filipinos the way to achieve their dreams no matter how high they may seem.

PHOTO BY JOHN TRONCO

ERWIN Emata, high altitude hero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THE FPMEE thanks its sponsors and partners at Base Camp

Putting the Pinoy on top of the world

The concerted effort behind the FPMEE's success

THE FIRST PHILIPPINE MT. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team's battlecry since they launched the lofty campaign to reach the peak of the highest peak in the world has been "Kaya ng Pinoy!" Such an undertaking launched primarily to put the Philippines in the map of the mountaineering world and instill pride and belief in every Filipino that we are capable of achieving a world-class feat comes with a hefty price tag-- the value of which is a combination of monetary support, time spent in training and preparation, exertion of physical energy and constant response to the trials and tests to the team's morale, will, determination and even intrigues that come along the way.

A task like Mt. Everest itself

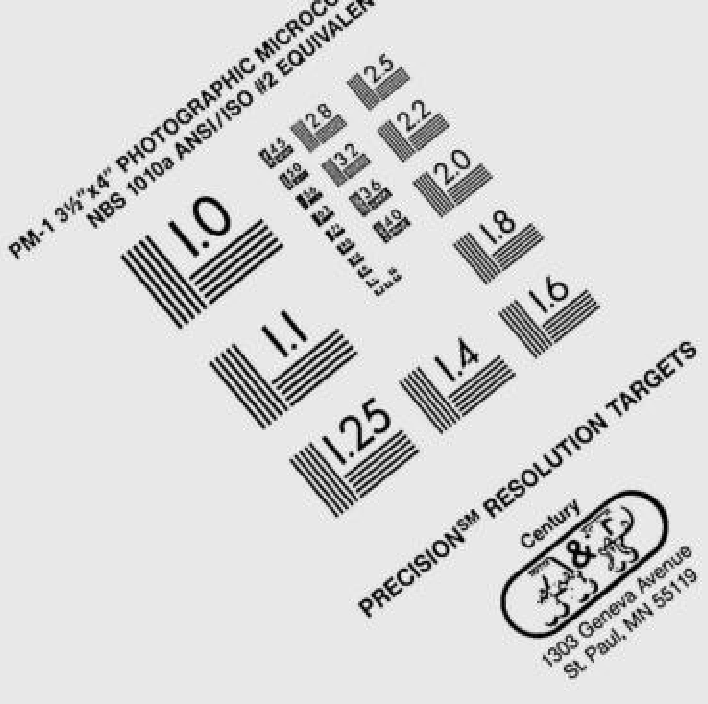
When the team was launched in April 2004, FPMEE Expedition Leader, former DOTC undersecretary and veteran mountaineer Art Valdez spelled-out the even monumental task of pulling together the resources they would need in realizing the ultimate ambition to reach the peak of Mt. Everest. "The challenge we face and the efforts we have to make in order to raise funds and obtain the necessary logistics for the team's training climbs and the actual ascent is another "Mt. Everest climb" itself," quips Valdez. This essentially meant getting sponsors to sign-up and provide the team with the financial backing in the next few years of preparation.

While mountaineering isn't as popular as basketball or boxing in the Philippines, a number of early supporters believed in the pride of planting the Philippine flag on the world's rooftop and came in to give the FPMEE team a good headstart. These include Stratworks Marketing Communications, which came in as the official team manager; ABS CBN, the official broadcast partner; national carrier Philippine Airlines who shouldered the plane fares of team members shuttling back and forth from their hometowns and during the team's local and international training climbs; Summit Mineral Water who helped fund the team's Everest climb; the Philippine Accident Managers Insurance (PAMI) who gave the team's required travel insurance coverage and the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt 3 which serves as the team's official venue for its press conferences.

Keeping fit and gearing up

Every serious mountain climber knows that training for every climb means a strict fitness regimen and being armed with the right gear. "You can very well guess how high the total tab would be for the training and equipment," says Valdez. Fortunately for the team, there were brands who pitched-in. Coleman provided the camping gear the team and even produced a television commercial for the team; Mozcom who hosts the team's official website; Kodak who provided digital cameras to help the team document their climbs; MedCentral provided the team's medical services; and Fitness First and Power Up as the official gym and training venues.

According to Valdez, the team owes the initial taste of Everest conquest and the glory it gave to the Filipinos to all the sponsors who were with them every step of the way. The FPMEE is now continuing its training to send the rest of team to another Everest climb. "It is another challenge in itself but the success of the Unity Climb in 2007 will further affirm "Kaya ng Pinoy!."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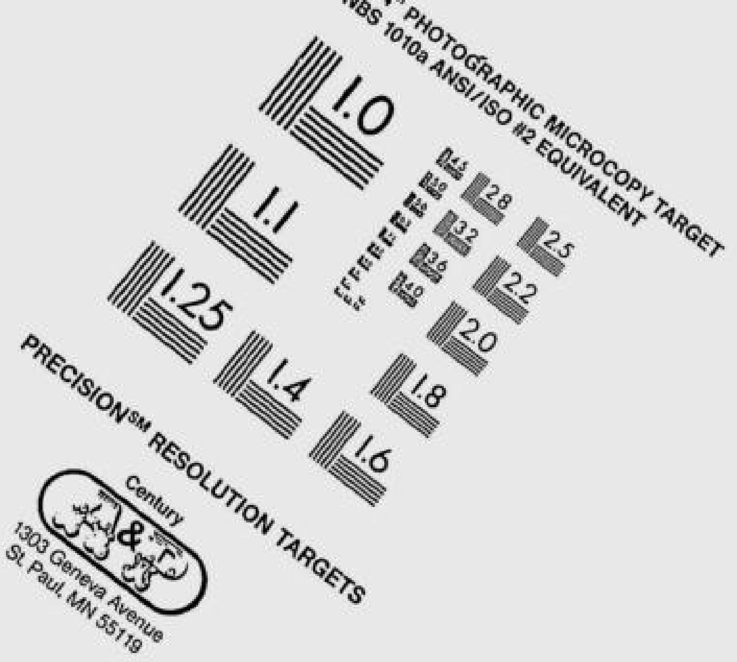
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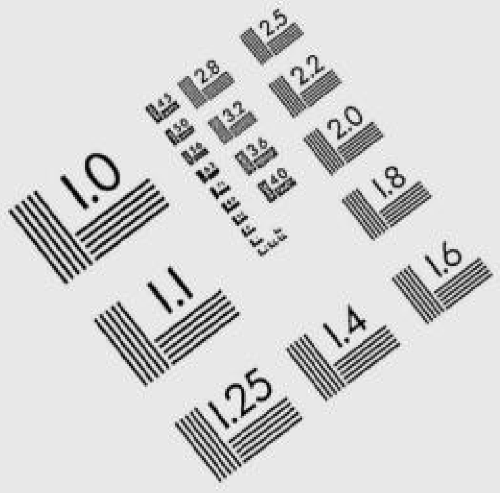
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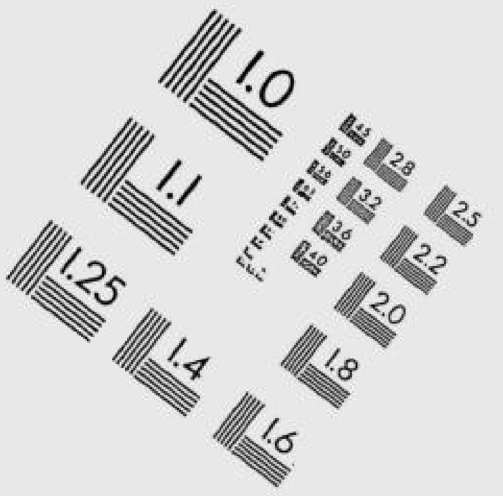
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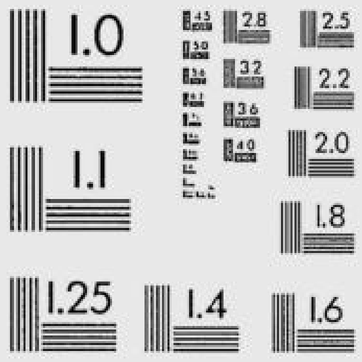
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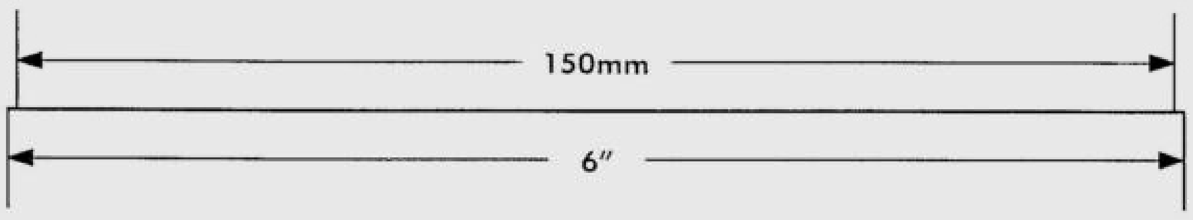

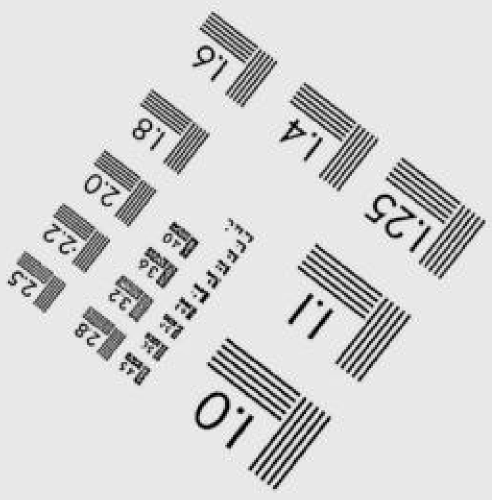
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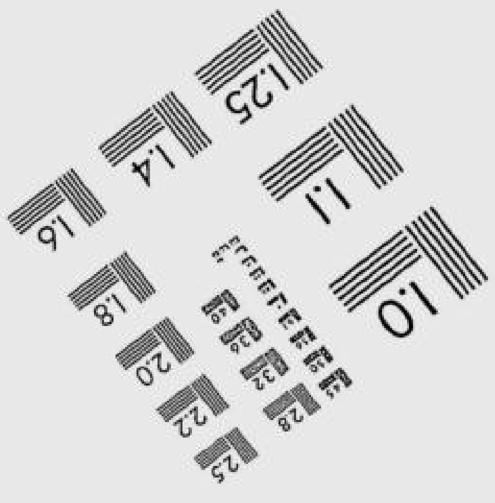
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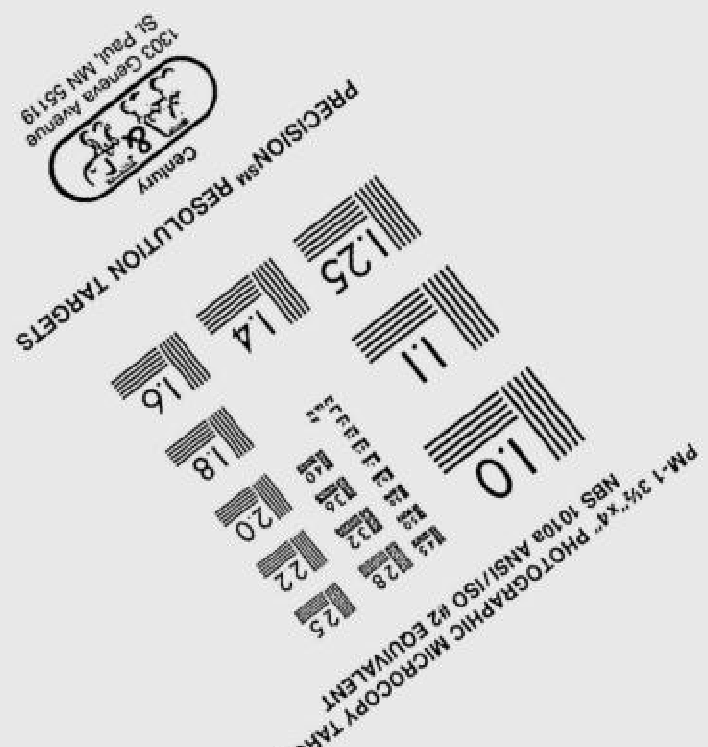
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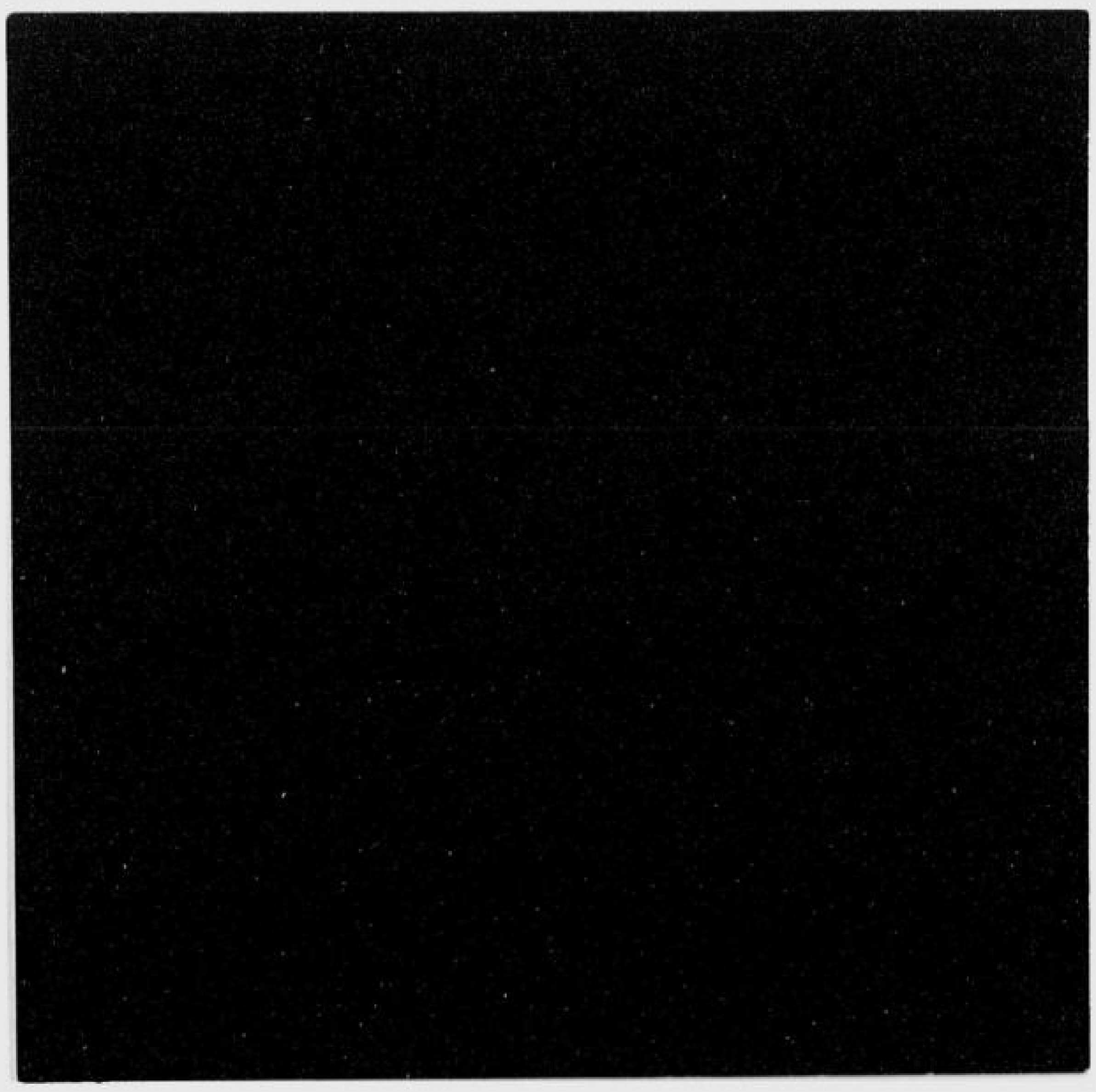

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

MAY
16 THRU 31
2006

REEL 381

END

PLEASE REWIND

START

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REEL 392

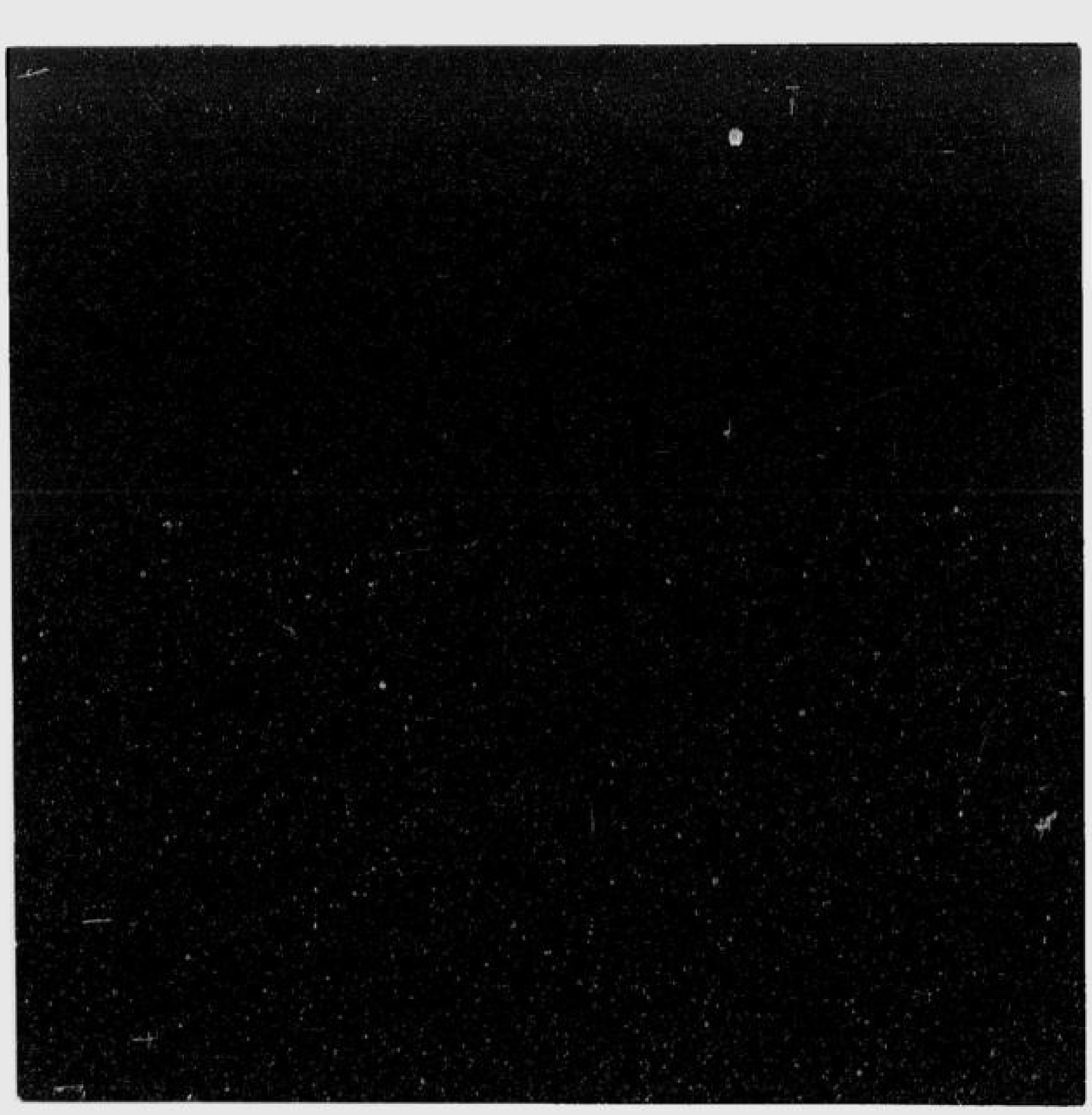
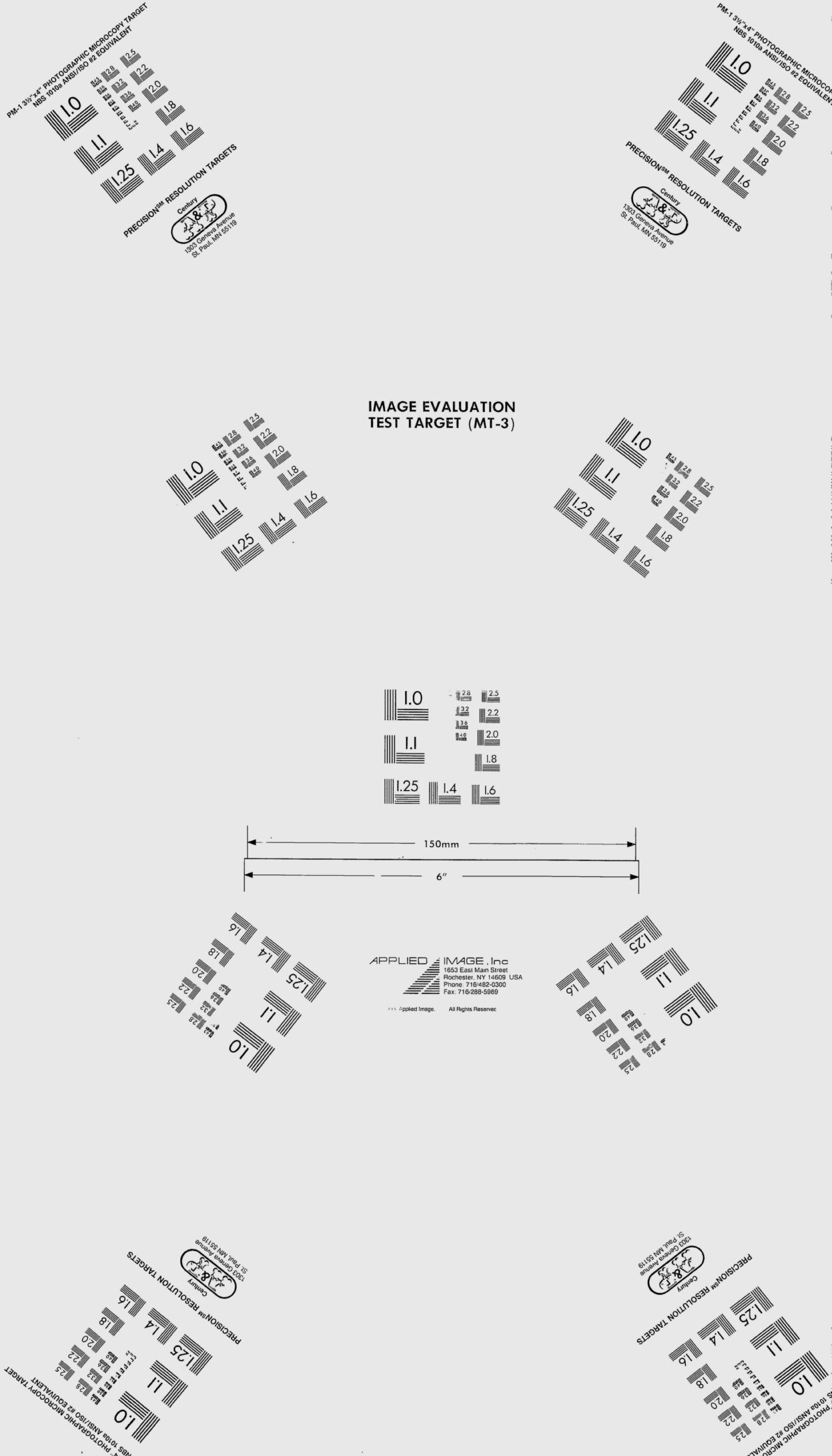


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)


PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT
PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119
1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0
150mm
6"

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